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Advancement of women

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Abdulla Eid Salman **Al-Sulaiti** (Qatar)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2003, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Advancement of women" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Committee held a substantive debate on item 110 jointly with item 111 at its 11th to 16th meetings, from 15 to 17 October, and considered proposals and took action on item 110 at its 24th, 26th, 28th, 32nd, 34th, 36th, 49th, 56th and 57th meetings, on 24, 28 and 30 October and on 4, 6, 7, 18, 24 and 26 November 2003. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/58/SR.11-16, 24, 26, 28, 32, 34, 36, 49, 56 and 57).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Relevant sections of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 2003;[1]

(b) Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its forty-third session;[2]

(c) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the work of its twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth session;[3]

[1] A/58/3 (Part I) and A/58/3 (Part II) and Corr.1; for the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/58/3/Rev.1).

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/58/16), chap. III, sect. C.4.

[3] Ibid., *Supplement No. 38* (A/58/38).

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(d) Report of the Secretary-General on violence against women migrant workers (A/58/161);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas (A/58/167 and Add.1);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls (A/58/169);

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/58/341);

(h) Report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system (A/58/374);

(i) Report of the Secretary-General on the future operation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (A/58/417);

(j) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (A/58/168);

(k) Report of the Working Group on the future operation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (A/58/540);

(l) Letter dated 14 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/58/3);

(m) Letter dated 26 September 2003 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of El Salvador addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/58/5);

(n) Letter dated 4 November 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to President of the General Assembly (A/C.3/58/8).

4. At the 11th meeting, on 15 October, statements were made by the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (see A/C.3/58/SR.11).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.17/Rev.1

5. At the 32nd meeting, on 4 November, the representative of the United States of America, on behalf of Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malawi, the Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, the Republic of Korea,

Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu and Viet Nam, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Women and political participation" (A/C.3/58/L.17/Rev.1). Subsequently, Albania, Angola, the Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Israel, Italy, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Palau, Paraguay, the Philippines, the Republic of Moldova, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uzbekistan and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At the 34th meeting, on 6 November, the representative of the United States of America orally revised and corrected the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 2 (j), the words "empowerment and women's political participation" were replaced by the words "the empowerment of women, in particular with regard to women's political participation";

(b) In operative paragraph 2 (l), the words "programmes to train women" were replaced by the words "programmes to educate and train women and girls";

(c) In operative paragraph 4 (b) the words "and private enterprise, political parties" were added after the words "international organizations".

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.17/Rev.1, as orally revised and corrected, without a vote (see para. 43, draft resolution I).

8. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Pakistan made a statement (see A/C.3/58/SR.34).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.18

9. At the 24th meeting, on 24 October, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of Argentina, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chile, Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guatemala, Haiti, Indonesia, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Swaziland and Timor-Leste, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Violence against women migrant workers" (A/C.3/58/L.18). Subsequently, Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Croatia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Ghana, Honduras, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Mali, Mongolia, Morocco, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Togo, Tunisia and Uruguay joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

10. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of the Philippines orally revised operative paragraph 16 by replacing the words "adoption by the General Assembly" by the words "imminent entry into force".

11. At the same meeting, the representative of the Philippines informed the Committee that Burundi was not a sponsor of the draft resolution.

12. At the 49th meeting, on 18 November, the representative of the Philippines further orally revised and corrected the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In the second preambular paragraph, the words "*Reaffirming* the outcome" were replaced by the words "*Reaffirming* the provisions concerning women migrant workers", and the words "specifically as the results pertain to women migrant workers" were deleted at the end of the paragraph;

(b) The third preambular paragraph, which read:

"*Noting* the various activities initiated by entities in the United Nations system, such as the expert group meeting organized by the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the International Organization for Migration, held at Geneva in August 1999, the international workshop on best practices concerning migrant workers and their families initiated by the International Organization for Migration, held at Santiago in June 2000, and the seminar on women immigrants organized by the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the Argentine National Institute against Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism, held at Buenos Aires in July 2001, as well as other activities that continue to assess and alleviate the plight of women migrant workers",

was replaced by the following text:

"*Noting* the various activities initiated by entities in the United Nations system, such as the Hemispheric Conference on Migration, organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the International Organization for Migration, held at Santiago in November 2002, as well as other activities that continue to assess and alleviate the plight of women migrant workers";

(c) In operative paragraph 16, the words "adoption by the General Assembly of the" were inserted before the words "Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air".

13. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.18, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 43, draft resolution II).

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.19

14. At the 26th meeting, on 28 October, the representative of Canada, on behalf of Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Senegal, Slovenia, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of the Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America of America,

Uruguay and Venezuela, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system" (A/C.3/58/L.19). Subsequently, Austria, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Central African Republic, Ghana, Greece, Haiti, Jamaica, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

15. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of Canada orally revised it as follows:

(a) The third preambular paragraph, which read:

"*Recalling further* its resolution 57/180 of 18 December 2002, as well as its resolution 57/305 of 15 April 2003, in particular section II, paragraphs 39, 40 and 41, in which it reaffirmed the goal of 50/50 gender distribution by 2000 in all categories of posts within the United Nations system, especially at the D-1 level and above, strongly encouraged Member States to support these efforts by identifying and regularly presenting more women candidates and requested the Secretary-General to undertake a comprehensive review of progress made towards the goal of 50/50 gender representation, particularly in offices in which women are underrepresented, and to present it to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session",

was replaced by:

"*Recalling further* its resolution 57/180 of 18 December 2002, as well as its resolution 57/305 of 15 April 2003, in particular section II, paragraphs 39, 40 and 41";

(b) In the sixth preambular paragraph, the words "the efforts of" were inserted before the words "the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts", and the words "which have achieved or continue to maintain the goal" were replaced by the words "in achieving or maintaining the goal";

(c) The seventh, eighth and ninth preambular paragraphs, which read:

"*Expressing concern* that for the second consecutive year there was a slowing of progress towards achieving the target of 50/50 gender balance, below the average increase of 1 percentage point per year achieved in previous years,

"*Welcoming* the increase in the number of women at the Under-Secretary-General, Assistant Secretary-General, D-1 and D-2 levels between 1998 and 2003, but expressing particular concern at the decline or stagnation in the number of women at the P-4 and P-5 levels,

"*Expressing concern* that between 1998 and 2003 there has been almost no progress in the rate of representation of women in appointments of one year or more at the Professional and higher levels",

were deleted;

(d) A new seventh preambular paragraph was inserted, reading:

"*Expressing particular concern* that for the second consecutive year there was a slowing of progress towards achieving the target of 50/50 gender balance and that between 1998 and 2003 there has been almost no progress in

the rate of representation of women in appointments of one year or more at the Professional and higher levels";

(e) The eleventh preambular paragraph, which read:

"*Welcoming* the commitment of the Secretary-General to set concrete targets for the appointment of women as his special representatives and special envoys in order to reach the target of 50/50 gender balance by 2015",

was deleted;

(f) In operative paragraph 2, the words "near future" were replaced by the words "very near future";

(g) In operative paragraph 4, the word "professional" was inserted before the word "staff" in both instances, and the words "encourages the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts" were replaced by the words "encourages the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system to intensify their efforts";

(h) In operative paragraph 5 (h) the words "an analysis" were replaced by the words "a research-based analysis".

16. At the 28th meeting, on 30 October, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

17. At the same meeting, the representative of Canada further orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) The fifth preambular paragraph, which read:

"*Taking into account* the continuing lack of representation or underrepresentation of women from certain countries, in particular from developing countries, including least developed countries and small island developing States, and from countries with economies in transition",

was replaced by:

"*Taking into account* the continuing lack of representation or underrepresentation of women from certain countries, in particular from developing countries, including least developed countries and small island developing States, from countries with economies in transition and from unrepresented or largely underrepresented Member States";

(b) A new ninth preambular paragraph was inserted, reading:

"*Welcoming* the work of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in issuing guidance for field missions on the procedures to be followed for handling disciplinary issues and allegations of serious misconduct involving mission personnel, and encouraged by the agreement in the Staff-Management Coordination Committee that the procedure for dealing with all forms of sexual harassment will be reviewed and incorporated within a new administrative instruction covering all forms of harassment";

(c) At the end of operative paragraph 3, the words "from developing countries and countries with economies in transition" were replaced by the words "from developing countries, countries with economies in transition and from unrepresented or largely underrepresented Member States";

(d) Operative paragraph 6 (i), which read:

"(i) To strengthen further the policy against harassment, including sexual harassment, by, inter alia, ensuring the full implementation of the guidelines for its application at Headquarters and in the field, and in this context welcomes the work of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in issuing guidance for field missions on the procedures to be followed for handling disciplinary issues and allegations of serious misconduct involving mission personnel, particularly uniformed personnel, and is encouraged by the agreement in the Staff-Management Coordination Committee that the procedures for dealing with allegations of sexual harassment be reviewed and incorporated within a new administrative instruction covering all forms of harassment",

was replaced by:

"(i) To continue to work to further strengthen the policy against harassment, including sexual harassment, by, inter alia, ensuring the full implementation of the guidelines for its application at Headquarters and in the field".

18. Also at the 28th meeting, Algeria, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominica, Estonia, Fiji, Georgia, Greece, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Panama, Paraguay, the Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Slovakia, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Suriname, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Uganda and Viet Nam joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, as orally revised.

19. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.19, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 43, draft resolution III).

D. Draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.20

20. At the 24th meeting, on 24 October, the representative of Iceland, on behalf of Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, the Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Samoa, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet

Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe introduced a draft resolution entitled "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women" (A/C.3/58/L.20). Subsequently, Bhutan, Bolivia, Côte d'Ivoire, Georgia, Grenada, Guyana, Liberia, Malta, Mauritius, Mongolia, Nepal, Nicaragua, the Niger, the Republic of Moldova, Rwanda and Togo joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

21. At the 28th meeting, on 30 October, the representative of Iceland orally revised the twelfth preambular paragraph by replacing the words "*Welcoming further*" by the word "*Recalling*".

22. At the same meeting, the Secretary read out a statement regarding financial provisions relating to the draft resolution (see A/C.5/58/SR.24).

23. Also at the 24th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.20, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 43, draft resolution IV).

24. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States of America made a statement; after the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Singapore (see A/C.3/58/SR.28).

E. Draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.21 and Rev.1

25. At the 24th meeting, on 24 October, the representative of Mongolia, on behalf of Argentina, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Namibia, Nigeria, Panama, the Philippines, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Zambia and Zimbabwe, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas" (A/C.3/58/L.21), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 56/129 of 19 December 2001,

"*Recalling also* the importance attached to the problems of rural women by the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

"*Welcoming* the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", namely, the political declaration and further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,

"*Welcoming also* the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, as well as the Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which called upon Governments to mainstream the gender perspective into development at all levels and in all sectors,

"*Recalling* the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which Member States resolved, inter alia, to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable,

"*Welcoming* the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2003 of the Economic and Social Council, adopted on 2 July 2003, which stressed the need for rural development to become an integral part of national and international development policies and of the United Nations system's activities and programmes, and called for an enhanced role for rural women at all levels of rural development, including decision-making,

"*Recognizing* the critical role and contribution of rural women in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty,

"*Noting* that some effects of globalization may deepen the socio-economic marginalization of rural women,

"*Noting also* that the globalization process has had some benefits by providing opportunities for wage employment for rural women in new sectors,

"*Mindful* of the fact that the available data and existing tools of measurement and analysis are insufficient for a full understanding of the gender implications of the processes of globalization and rural change, and their impact on rural women,

"*Recognizing* the urgent need to take appropriate measures aimed at further improving the situation of women in rural areas,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas;

"2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to seek views of Member States on the desirability of convening a high-level policy consultation at the governmental level with a view to setting priorities and developing critical strategies that would meet the manifold challenges faced by rural women;

"3. *Invites* Member States, in collaboration with the United Nations organizations and civil society, as appropriate, to continue their efforts to implement the outcome of and to ensure an integrated and coordinated follow-up to United Nations conferences and summits, including their five-year reviews, and to attach greater importance to the improvement of the situation of rural women in their national, regional and global development strategies by, inter alia:

"(a) Creating an enabling environment for improving the situation of rural women, including integrating a gender perspective in macroeconomic policies and developing appropriate social support systems;

"(b) Pursuing the political and socio-economic empowerment of rural women by supporting their full and equal participation in decision-making at all levels, including in rural institutions through, inter alia, the provision of training and capacity-building programmes, including legal literacy;

"(c) Integrating a gender perspective into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development policies and programmes, including budget policies, paying increased attention to needs of rural women so as to ensure that they benefit from policies and programmes adopted in all spheres and that the disproportionate number of rural women living in poverty is reduced;

"(d) Investing in and strengthening efforts to meet the basic needs of rural women through capacity-building and human resources development measures and the provision of a safe and reliable water supply, health services, including family planning services, and nutritional programmes, as well as education and literacy programmes and social support measures;

"(e) Designing and implementing policies that promote and protect women's enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and creating an environment that does not tolerate violations of the rights of women and girls;

"(f) Developing specific assistance programmes and advisory services to promote economic skills of rural women in banking, modern trading and financial procedures and providing microcredit and other financial and business services to a greater number of women in rural areas for their economic empowerment;

"(g) Taking steps towards ensuring that women's unpaid work and contributions to on-farm and off-farm production, including income generated in the informal sector, are visible and assessing the feasibility of developing and improving mechanisms, such as time-use studies, to measure in quantitative terms unpaid work, recognizing the potential for it to be reflected in policy and programme formulation and implementation at national and regional levels;

"(h) Designing and revising laws to ensure that, where private ownership of land and property exist, rural women are accorded full and equal rights to own land and other property, including through the right to inheritance, and undertaking administrative reforms and other necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit, capital, appropriate technologies and access to markets and information;

"(i) Promoting programmes to enable rural women and men to reconcile their work and family responsibilities and to encourage men to share equally with women household and childcare responsibilities.

"4. *Invites* the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to pay due attention to the situation of rural women in the consideration of the priority themes identified in its multi-year programme of work for the period 2002-2006;

"5. *Invites* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system dealing with issues of development to address and support the empowerment of rural women and their specific needs in their programmes and strategies, including in the context of globalization;

"6. *Stresses* the need to identify the best practices for ensuring that rural women have access to and full participation in the area of information

and communication technologies, inter alia, through specific studies, and invites the forthcoming World Summit on the Information Society, to be held in Geneva and Tunis, to address the priorities and needs of rural women and ensure their participation in developing and implementing global information and communication technology strategies;

"7. *Invites* Member States, the United Nations and the relevant organizations of its system to ensure that the integrated process of follow-up to the major summits and conferences in the economic and social fields, in particular the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the International Conference on Financing for Development, and the 2005 review of the progress achieved in implementing all the commitments made in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the special session of the General Assembly entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century', focus explicitly on the situation of rural women and strategies towards its improvement;

"8. *Invites also* Member States to use the concluding comments and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women when formulating policies and designing programmes focused on the improvement of the situation of rural women, including those to be developed and implemented in cooperation with relevant international organizations;

"9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution, with particular emphasis on the impact of macroeconomic policy frameworks on the situation of rural women, and to submit it to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session".

26. At its 49th meeting, on 18 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.3/58/L.21/Rev.1) submitted by the sponsors of A/C.3/58/L.21 and Chile, the Niger, Peru and Tunisia. Subsequently, Angola, Bolivia, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, El Salvador, Honduras, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tunisia and Uganda joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

27. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.21/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 43, draft resolution V).

F. Draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.22 and Rev.1

28. At the 26th meeting, on 28 October, the representative of the Netherlands, on behalf of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, the Central African Republic, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Venezuela, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Elimination of all forms of violence against women" (A/C.3/58/L.22). Subsequently, the Dominican Republic, Estonia, Liechtenstein, Madagascar and Venezuela joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

29. At its 56th meeting, on 24 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Elimination of domestic violence against women" (A/C.3/58/L.22/Rev.1), sponsored by Albania, Austria, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malta, Mexico, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Venezuela. The revised draft resolution reads as follows:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Reaffirming* the obligation of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as in other relevant international instruments, and reaffirming also that discrimination on the basis of sex is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other international human rights instruments, and that its elimination is an integral part of efforts towards the elimination of violence against women,

"*Recalling* the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, as well as the follow-up action by the Commission on the Status of Women on violence against women and the outcome documents of the special session of the General Assembly entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century',

"*Recalling also* all its previous resolutions on the elimination of violence against women,

"*Taking note* of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/45 of 23 April 2003 on the elimination of violence against women, as well as all its previous resolutions on this issue,

"*Bearing in mind* that domestic violence against women is a human rights issue,

"*Recognizing* that violence against women is, inter alia, a societal problem and a manifestation of unequal power relations between women and men,

"*Recognizing also* that both men and women have and should take responsibility for promoting gender equality,

"*Recognizing further* the serious immediate and long-term implications for health, including sexual and reproductive health, as well as psychological,

social and economic development, that domestic violence against women can represent for individuals, families, communities and States,

"*Underlining* the importance of the empowerment of women and their effective participation in decision-making and policy-making processes as critical tools to prevent and eliminate domestic violence against women,

"1. *Recognizes*:

"(a) That domestic violence is violence that occurs within the private sphere, generally between individuals who are related through blood or intimacy;

"(b) That domestic violence is one of the most common, least visible forms of violence against women and that its consequences affect many areas of the lives of victims;

"(c) That domestic violence can take many different forms, including physical, psychological and sexual violence;

"(d) That domestic violence is of public concern and requires States to take serious action to protect victims and prevent domestic violence;

"(e) That domestic violence can include economic deprivation and isolation and that such conduct may cause imminent harm to the safety, health or well-being of women;

"2. *Welcomes*:

"(a) The activities and initiatives of States aimed at the elimination of domestic violence against women, including legal, educational, economic, social and other measures;

"(b) The work of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and takes note of the report entitled 'Developments in the area of violence against women (1994-2002)';

"(c) The efforts undertaken by United Nations bodies, funds and programmes to address the issue of domestic violence and encourages them to coordinate their efforts, and, in particular, expresses its appreciation for the initiatives of the United Nations Development Fund for Women to combat violence against women at the international, regional and national levels, as well as the World Report on Violence and Health launched by the World Health Organization in 2002, particularly its consideration of gender-based violence;

"(d) The work carried out by civil society, including non-governmental organizations, such as women's organizations, and community-based organizations and individuals, aimed at the elimination of domestic violence against women, inter alia, by raising awareness of its harmful effects, and in the provision of support services to women victims of violence;

"3. *Strongly condemns* all forms of violence against women and girls, and in this regard, calls for the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence in the family, within the general community and where perpetrated or condoned by the State;

"4. *Expresses its concern*:

"(a) That women continue to be victims of domestic violence and at the continuing occurrence in all regions of the world of such violence, which takes many different forms, and at failures to prosecute and punish the perpetrators;

"(b) That domestic violence, including sexual violence in marriage, is still treated as a private matter in some countries;

"5. *Stresses* that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish the perpetrators of domestic violence against women and to provide protection to the victims, and also stresses that not to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

"6. *Reaffirms* the commitment of States to establish legislation and/or strengthen appropriate mechanisms to handle criminal matters relating to all forms of domestic violence, including marital rape and sexual abuse of women and girls, and to ensure that such cases are brought to justice swiftly;

"7. *Calls upon* States:

"(a) To adopt, strengthen and implement legislation that prohibits domestic violence, prescribes punitive measures and establishes adequate legal protection against domestic violence and to periodically review, evaluate and revise these laws and regulations so as to ensure their effectiveness in eliminating domestic violence;

"(b) To make sexual violence within marriage a criminal offence and to ensure proper investigation and prosecution of perpetrators;

"(c) To adopt and/or strengthen policies and legislation in order to strengthen preventive measures, protect the human rights of victims, ensure proper investigation and prosecution of perpetrators, and provide legal and social assistance to victims of domestic violence, as well as adopt policies with regard to the rehabilitation of perpetrators;

"(d) To intensify measures aimed at preventing domestic violence against women;

"(e) To ensure greater protection for women, inter alia, by means of, where appropriate, orders restraining violent partners from entering the family home, or by the banning of violent partners from contacting the victim;

"(f) To provide or facilitate the provision of adequate training, inter alia, gender-awareness training, to all professionals who deal with domestic violence, in particular with victims of domestic violence, police officers, judicial and legal personnel, health personnel, educators, youth workers and social workers;

"(g) To provide or facilitate the provision of assistance to victims of domestic violence in lodging police reports and receiving treatment and support, which may include the setting up of one-stop centres, as well as the establishment of safe shelters and centres for victims of domestic violence;

"(h) To protect women from further victimization in the process of seeking redress because of gender insensitive laws or practices;

"(i) To establish and/or strengthen police response protocols and procedures to ensure that all appropriate actions are taken to protect victims of domestic violence and to prevent further acts of domestic violence;

"(j) To take measures to ensure the protection of women subjected to violence, access to just and effective remedies, inter alia, through compensation and indemnification and healing of victims, and the rehabilitation of perpetrators;

"(k) To intensify efforts to raise collective and individual awareness about violence against women, including through human rights education, to highlight the role of men and boys in the prevention and elimination of domestic violence against women, and to encourage and support initiatives to promote attitudinal and behavioural change on the part of, and the rehabilitation of, perpetrators of violence against women;

"(l) To encourage the efforts of the media to engage in awareness-raising campaigns;

"(m) To take all measures to empower women and strengthen their economic independence, including through equal remuneration for equal work, and increased job opportunities for women, as well as equal access to and control over economic resources, including land, credit, microcredit and traditional saving schemes, such as women's banks and cooperatives, and by ensuring property rights and the right to inheritance with a view to reducing women's vulnerability to all forms of violence, including domestic violence and trafficking;

"(n) Not to invoke any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations to eliminate violence against women;

"(o) To consider, as a matter of priority, becoming parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

"(p) That are parties to the Convention to include in their reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, information on legal and policy measures adopted and implemented in their efforts to prevent and eliminate domestic violence against women and to cross-reference this information, where appropriate, in reports to other human rights treaty bodies;

"(q) To cooperate closely with relevant specialized agencies and United Nations funds and programmes, as well as with regional intergovernmental organizations, as appropriate, and relevant community and non-governmental organizations, including women's organizations, in an effort to eliminate violence against women;

"(r) To collect, update and improve collection of data on violence against women, including through sex-disaggregated information systems, which should be made public and disseminated widely;

"8. *Emphasizes* the need for technical and financial assistance to developing countries in their efforts to eliminate domestic violence against women from United Nations funds and programmes, international and regional financial institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, and civil society, as

well as the need for assistance from the international community to non-governmental organizations and community-based groups active in this field;

"9. *Encourages* States to contribute or increase their contribution to the Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women managed by the United Nations Development Fund for Women;

"10. *Invites*:

"(a) Relevant specialized agencies, United Nations bodies, regional intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to exchange information on the subject of the present resolution, and encourages the exchange of such information between non-governmental organizations active in this field and the relevant human rights treaty bodies;

"(b) The relevant human rights treaty bodies to continue to address this issue, where appropriate, and notes in this regard the relevance of general recommendation 19 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;

"11. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this question at its sixtieth session under the item entitled 'Advancement of Women'."

30. At the same meeting, the representative of the Netherlands orally revised draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.22/Rev.1 as follows:

(a) In the fourth preambular paragraph, the word "relevant" was inserted after the word "previous";

(b) In the fifth preambular paragraph, the words "and girls" were inserted after the word "women";

(c) The eighth preambular paragraph was replaced by the following text:

"*Recognizing further* the serious immediate and long-term implications for health, including sexual and reproductive health that domestic violence against women can represent for individuals and families";

(d) After the eighth preambular paragraph, a new preambular paragraph was inserted, reading:

"*Recognizing* the implications of domestic violence on the social and economic development of communities and States";

(e) In the ninth preambular paragraph (now tenth), the words "effective participation in decision-making and policy-making processes" were replaced by the words "economic independence";

(f) In operative paragraph 2 (c), the words ", including the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Population Fund" were inserted after the word "programmes";

(g) In operative paragraph 3, the words "forms of violence" were replaced by the words "forms of domestic violence", and the words "within the general community and" were replaced by the word "including";

(h) In operative paragraph 4 (a), the words "such violence" were replaced by the words "domestic violence";

(i) In operative paragraph 7 (b), the words "sexual violence within marriage" were replaced by the words "domestic sexual violence";

(j) In operative paragraph 7 (e), the word "partners" was replaced by the word "spouses" in both instances;

(k) In operative paragraph 10 (b), after the words "where appropriate", the remainder of the paragraph was deleted.

31. Also at the same meeting, Andorra, Armenia, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, the Congo, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Israel, Mauritius, Mongolia, Nepal, Nicaragua, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Swaziland, Togo and Uruguay joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

32. Also at its 56th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.22/Rev.1, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 43, draft resolution VI).[4]

33. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Gambia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Iceland (on behalf of the Nordic countries) (see A/C.3/58/SR.56).

G. Draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.36

34. At the 36th meeting, on 7 November, the representative of Morocco, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, and Mexico, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Future operation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women" (A/C.3/58/L.36). Subsequently, Romania joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

35. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of Morocco orally revised the text as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 1, the words "final report of the Working Group" were replaced by the words "report of the Working Group";

(b) In operative paragraph 6, the words "until the new executive board convenes its first session" were added at the end of the paragraph.

36. At the 57th meeting, on 26 November, the representative of Morocco further orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) Operative paragraph 7 (a), which read:

"7. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

"(a) To appoint, without delay and in consultation with the Working Group, a Director to be chosen from among candidates who demonstrate knowledge and expertise in, inter alia, gender issues and social research",

was deleted, so that paragraph 7 now read:

[4] After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Ethiopia indicated that his delegation would have liked to sponsor the draft resolution.

"7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution".

37. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of El Salvador, the Dominican Republic and Mexico (see A/C.3/58/SR.57).

38. Also at the same meeting, a statement of programme budget implications relating to the draft resolution was presented to the Committee (A/C.3/58/L.86).

39. At its 57th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.36, as orally revised, by a recorded vote of 126 to 5, with 33 abstentions (see para. 43, draft resolution VII). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syria, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nauru, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

40. Before the vote, statements were made by the representatives of Spain, the United States of America, Japan and the Czech Republic; after the vote, statements were made by the representatives of Sweden (also on behalf of Denmark, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), the Republic of Korea and Canada (also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand); statements were also made by the representatives of Benin and Morocco (see A/C.3/58/SR.57).

H. Draft decision proposed by the Chairman

41. At its 34th meeting, on 6 November, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee endorsed the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination, as contained in chapter III, section C.4, of its report,[2] and recommended them for adoption by the General Assembly (see para. 44, draft decision I).

42. At its 57th meeting, on 26 November, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the following documents (see para. 44, draft decision II):

(a) Note by the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Development Fund for Women (A/58/168);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the future operation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (A/58/417);

(c) Report of the Working Group on the Future Operation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (A/58/540).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

43. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Women and political participation

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the obligations of all States to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms as stated in the Charter of the United Nations, and guided by the purposes and principles of human rights instruments,

Reaffirming also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] which states that everyone has the right to take part in the government of his or her country and the right of equal access to public service,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[2] which states, inter alia, that every citizen shall have the right and opportunity to take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives, to vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections and to have access, on general terms of equality, to public service in his or her country,

Recalling also the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[3] which states, inter alia, that States parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country,

Recalling further the Convention on the Political Rights of Women,[4] which states that women shall be, on equal terms with men and without any discrimination, entitled to vote in all elections, eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies established by national law and entitled to hold public office and to exercise all public functions established by national law,

Recalling the Beijing Declaration[5] and Platform for Action,[6] the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[7] the United Nations Millennium Declaration[8] and agreed conclusions 1997/2 of the Commission on the Status of Women on women in power and decision-making,[9]

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[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[3] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[4] Resolution 640 (VII).

[5] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[6] Ibid., annex II.

[7] Resolution S-23/3, annex.

[8] See resolution 55/2.

[9] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 7* (E/1997/27), chap. I, sect. C.1.

Affirming that the empowerment and autonomy of women and the improvement of their political, social and economic status is essential to the achievement of representative, transparent and accountable government, democratic institutions and sustainable development in all areas of life,

Affirming also that the active participation of women, on equal terms with men, at all levels of decision-making is essential to the achievement of equality, sustainable development, peace and democracy,

Concerned that, despite general acceptance of the need for gender balance in decision-making bodies at all levels, women are still largely underrepresented at most levels of government, especially in ministerial and other executive bodies, and in legislative bodies,

Recognizing that women have demonstrated considerable leadership in community and informal organizations, as well as in public office,

Recognizing also that women's full and equal participation in the political process and decision-making will provide a balance that more accurately reflects the composition of society, is needed to strengthen democracy and promote its proper functioning, plays a pivotal role in furthering women's equal status, including improving women's socio-economic status, and contributes to redefining political priorities and providing new perspectives on political issues,

Recognizing further that women's participation in decision-making and in political, civil, economic, social and cultural life is negatively affected by poverty, which disproportionately affects women, particularly in developing countries,

Reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building, and stressing the importance of their full and equal participation in all efforts to maintain and promote peace and security and the need to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention, resolution and rebuilding of post-conflict society, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

Recognizing the importance of education and training from an early age in government, public policy, economics, civics, information technology and science to ensure that women develop the knowledge, skills, confidence and ethical values needed to participate fully in society and the political process,

1. *Urges* States:

(a) To promote and protect the right of women to associate freely, express their views publicly, openly debate political policy and petition and participate in their Government at all levels, including in the formulation and implementation of government policy, on equal terms with men;

(b) To eliminate laws, regulations and practices that in a discriminatory manner prevent or restrict women from participating in the political process, and to implement positive measures that would accelerate the achievement of equality between men and women;

(c) To ensure equal access to education, property rights and inheritance rights, and to promote equal access to information technology and business and economic opportunities, including in international trade, in order to provide women

with the tools that enable them to take part fully and equally in decision-making processes at all levels;

(d) To counter, as appropriate, negative societal attitudes about women's capacity to participate equally in the political process that contribute to the low proportion of women among political decision makers at the local, national and international levels;

(e) To promote the goal of gender balance in all public positions, and to take all appropriate measures to encourage political parties to ensure that women have a fair and equal opportunity to compete for all elective and non-elective public positions;

(f) To review the differential impact of their electoral systems on the political representation of women in elected bodies and to adjust or reform those systems where appropriate;

(g) To institute educational programmes, as appropriate, in the school curriculum that sensitize young people about the equal rights of women, teach civic responsibilities, promote confidence-building and counter negative societal attitudes that discourage women's political participation;

(h) To monitor progress in the representation of women through the regular collection, analysis and dissemination of data on the political participation of women and men at all levels and the progress of political parties in providing equal and fair opportunities for women to participate;

(i) To identify and propose more women candidates for senior and decision-making positions in the United Nations system and for appointment or election to intergovernmental expert and treaty bodies, and to encourage more women to apply for those positions;

(j) To promote gender balance for their delegations to United Nations and other international meetings and conferences;

(k) To encourage greater involvement of indigenous and other marginalized women in decision-making at all levels and to address and counter the barriers faced by marginalized women in accessing and participating in politics and decision-making;

(l) To ensure that measures to reconcile family and professional life apply equally to women and men, bearing in mind that the sharing of family responsibilities between women and men creates an enabling environment for women's political participation;

2. *Invites* Governments, as well as the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other civil society actors:

(a) To develop mechanisms and training programmes that encourage women to participate in the electoral process and improve women's capacity to cast informed votes in free and fair elections;

(b) To encourage political parties to remove all barriers that directly or indirectly discriminate against the participation of women, in order to ensure that women have the right to participate fully at all levels of decision-making in all

internal policy-making structures and nominating processes and in the leadership of political parties on equal terms with men;

(c) To encourage political parties to actively seek qualified women candidates, to provide training in conducting campaigns, public speaking, fund-raising and parliamentary procedure and to include qualified women and men on their party lists for elective office, where such lists exist;

(d) To strive to ensure that information about candidates, political party platforms, voting procedures, including voter registration, and electoral law is available to women on an equal basis with men;

(e) To support initiatives, including public-private partnerships and exchange programmes, to expand women's political skills, which include imparting or enhancing skills on how to vote, advocate, manage and govern, run for public office and serve as elected and appointed officials;

(f) To promote the participation of young people, especially women, in civil society organizations to enable them to acquire experience, skills and capacities that are transferable to the field of political participation;

(g) To encourage the establishment of, and support of existing, non-governmental organizations that provide training in leadership, decision-making, public speaking skills, use of information and communication technologies, confidence-building and political campaigning;

(h) To intensify efforts to increase the number of women in public bodies, including through research into barriers to women's access to high-level public appointments;

(i) To promote recruitment and career-development programmes that provide women equal access to managerial, entrepreneurial, technical and leadership training, in order to better enable them to assume legislative, judicial and executive positions in government;

(j) To continue to study links between poverty eradication, the empowerment of women, in particular with regard to women's political participation, and to compile and widely disseminate good practices and lessons learned;

(k) To promote equal opportunities for women to gain appointment to advisory and decision-making bodies and promotion to senior positions by, inter alia, reviewing the criteria for recruitment, appointment and promotion, to ensure that such criteria are relevant to and do not discriminate against women;

(l) To develop programmes to educate and train women and girls in using the media and information and communication technologies in order to obtain and impart information, be informed voters, network, communicate to potential voters and raise campaign funds;

(m) To encourage the media to recognize the importance of women's participation in the political process, provide fair and balanced coverage of male and female candidates, cover participation in women's political organizations and ensure coverage of issues that have a particular impact on women;

3. *Urges* States and the United Nations system to increase participation of women at all levels of decision-making in conflict resolution and peace processes;

4. *Invites* non-governmental organizations and other actors of civil society:

(a) To advocate at all levels to enable women to influence political, economic and social decisions, processes and systems, including by building and strengthening networks among women;

(b) To establish, consistent with data-protection legislation, databases on women and their qualifications for use in appointing women to senior decision-making and advisory positions, for dissemination to Governments, regional and international organizations and private enterprise, political parties and other relevant bodies;

(c) To increase coordination and cooperation in supporting women and to continue to present women's concerns and experiences to Governments;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in his report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fiftieth session, to include information on the participation of women in politics at all levels, bearing in mind that in 2006 the Commission will consider the item entitled "Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels", and encourages Governments to cooperate with the Secretary-General by providing precise data on the political participation of women at all levels.

Draft resolution II
Violence against women migrant workers

The General Assembly,

Recalling all of its previous resolutions on violence against women migrant workers and those adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[1]

Reaffirming the provisions concerning women migrant workers of the World Conference on Human Rights,[2] the International Conference on Population and Development,[3] the Fourth World Conference on Women[4] and the World Summit for Social Development[5] and their five-year reviews,

Noting the various activities initiated by entities in the United Nations system, such as the Hemispheric Conference on Migration organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the International Organization for Migration, held at Santiago in November 2002, as well as other activities that continue to assess and alleviate the plight of women migrant workers,

Emphasizing the need for objective, comprehensive, broad-based information, possibly including a database for research and analysis, and a wide exchange of experience and lessons learned by individual Member States and civil society in the formulation of policies and concrete strategies to address the problem of violence against women migrant workers,

Encouraging the continuing participation of civil society in developing and implementing appropriate measures to support innovative partnerships among public agencies, non-governmental organizations and other members of civil society for combating violence against women migrant workers,

Noting the large numbers of women from developing countries and some countries with economies in transition who continue to venture forth to more affluent countries in search of a living for themselves and their families as a consequence of poverty, unemployment and other socio-economic conditions, and acknowledging the duty of the countries of origin to try to create conditions that provide employment and economic security for their citizens,

Expressing deep concern at the continuing reports of grave abuses and acts of violence committed against women migrant workers,

Realizing that the movement of a significant number of women migrant workers may be facilitated and made possible by means of fraudulent or irregular documentation and sham marriages with the object of migration, that this may be

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[1] See resolution 48/104.

[2] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[3] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[4] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[5] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

facilitated through, among other things, the Internet, and that these women migrant workers are more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation,

Acknowledging the economic benefits that accrue to both the country of origin and the country of destination from the employment of women migrant workers,

Recognizing the importance of joint and collaborative approaches and strategies at the bilateral, regional, interregional and international levels in protecting and promoting the rights and welfare of women migrant workers,

Recognizing also the importance of exploring the link between migration and trafficking,

Encouraged by some measures adopted by some countries of destination to alleviate the plight of women migrant workers residing in their areas of jurisdiction,

Underlining the important role of relevant United Nations treaty bodies in monitoring the implementation of human rights conventions and the relevant special procedures, within their respective mandates, in addressing the problem of violence against women migrant workers and in protecting and promoting their rights and welfare,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[6]

2. *Also takes note* of the reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the human rights of migrants[7] and of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences,[8] with regard to violence against women migrant workers, and encourages the Special Rapporteurs to continue to address the issue of violence against women migrant workers and their human rights, in particular the problems of gender-based violence and of discrimination, as well as trafficking in women;

3. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the entry into force of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families on 1 July 2003;

4. *Requests* all Governments to continue to cooperate fully with both Special Rapporteurs in the performance of their tasks and mandated duties and to furnish all information requested, including by reacting promptly to the urgent appeals of the Special Rapporteurs;

5. *Encourages* Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin and destination, to make available to the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants information on violence against women migrant workers, with a view to requesting the Special Rapporteur to recommend concrete measures and actions to address the problem;

6. *Also encourages* Governments to give serious consideration to inviting the Special Rapporteur to visit their countries so as to enable her to fulfil the mandate effectively;

7. *Urges* concerned Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin and destination, to strengthen further their national efforts to protect and

[6] A/58/161.

[7] E/CN.4/2003/85.

[8] E/CN.4/2003/75/Add.1.

promote the rights and welfare of women migrant workers, including through sustained bilateral, regional, interregional and international cooperation, by developing strategies and joint action and taking into account the innovative approaches and experiences of individual Member States, and to establish and maintain continuing dialogues to facilitate the exchange of information;

8. *Also urges* concerned Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin and destination, to support and allocate appropriate resources for programmes aimed at strengthening preventive action, in particular information for target groups, education and campaigns to increase public awareness of this issue at the national and grass-roots levels, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations;

9. *Notes with appreciation* the adoption by Member States, including countries of origin, transit and destination, of measures to inform women migrant workers of their rights and the benefits to which they are entitled, and encourages other Member States to adopt appropriate measures in this regard;

10. *Calls upon* concerned Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin and destination, if they have not done so, to put in place penal and criminal sanctions to punish perpetrators of violence against women migrant workers and, to the extent possible, to provide and to encourage non-governmental organizations to provide victims of violence with the full range of immediate assistance and protection, such as counselling, legal and consular assistance, temporary shelter and other measures that will allow them to be present during the judicial process, as well as to establish reintegration and rehabilitation schemes for returning women migrant workers to their countries of origin;

11. *Encourages* concerned Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin and destination, to support and, if they have not done so, to formulate and implement training programmes for their law enforcers, prosecutors and service providers with a view to instilling among those public sector workers the necessary skills and attitude to ensure the delivery of proper and professional interventions for women migrant workers who are subjected to abuse and violence;

12. *Also encourages* concerned Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin and destination, to adopt measures or strengthen existing ones to regulate the recruitment and deployment of women migrant workers, and to consider the adoption of appropriate legal measures against intermediaries who deliberately encourage the clandestine movement of workers and who exploit women migrant workers;

13. *Invites* Governments to identify the causes of undocumented migration and its economic, social and demographic impact, as well as its implications for the formulation and application of social, economic and migration policies, including those relating to women migrant workers;

14. *Encourages* concerned Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin, transit and destination, to avail themselves of the expertise of the United Nations, including the Statistics Division of the Secretariat and other relevant bodies, such as the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, to develop appropriate national data-collection methodologies that will generate comparable data on violence against women migrant workers as bases for research and analysis of the subject;

15. *Encourages* Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to relevant International Labour Organization conventions and to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, as well as the Slavery Convention of 1926;

16. *Welcomes* the imminent entry into force of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the adoption by the General Assembly of the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and encourages Governments to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Protocols;

17. *Encourages* the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to consider developing a general recommendation on the situation of women migrant workers;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the problem of violence against women migrant workers and on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account updated information from the organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, as well as the International Organization for Migration and other relevant sources, including non-governmental organizations.

Draft resolution III
Improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system

The General Assembly,

Recalling Articles 1 and 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as Article 8, which provides that the United Nations shall place no restrictions on the eligibility of men and women to participate in any capacity and under conditions of equality in its principal and subsidiary organs,

Recalling also the goal, contained in the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,[1] of achieving overall gender equality, particularly at the Professional level and above, by 2000 and the further actions and initiatives set out in the outcome document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[2]

Recalling further its resolution 57/180 of 18 December 2002, as well as its resolution 57/305 of 15 April 2003, in particular, section II, paragraphs 39, 40 and 41,

Taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/44 of 23 April 2003[3] on integrating the human rights of women throughout the United Nations system, in particular its paragraph 15, in which the Commission recognized that gender mainstreaming would strongly benefit from the enhanced and full participation of women, including at the higher levels of decision-making within the United Nations system,

Taking into account the continuing lack of representation or underrepresentation of women from certain countries, in particular from developing countries, including least developed countries and small island developing States, from countries with economies in transition and from unrepresented or largely underrepresented Member States,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts, the Office of Human Resources Management, the Department of Public Information, the Department of Management/Office of the Under-Secretary-General and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research in achieving or maintaining the goal of gender balance, as well as those departments and offices that have met or exceeded the goal of 50 per cent in the selection of women candidates for vacant posts in the past year,[4]

Expressing particular concern that for the second consecutive year there was a slowing of progress towards achieving the target of 50/50 gender balance and that between 1998 and 2003 there has been almost no progress in the rate of

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[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] Resolution S-23/3, annex.

[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 3* (E/2003/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[4] A/58/374, paras. 10, 43 and 74.

representation of women in appointments of one year or more at the Professional and higher levels,[5]

Also expressing concern that there is still only one female special representative of the Secretary-General,[6]

Welcoming the work of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in issuing guidance for field missions on the procedures to be followed for handling disciplinary issues and allegations of serious misconduct involving mission personnel, and encouraged by the agreement in the Staff-Management Coordination Committee that the procedure for dealing with all forms of sexual harassment will be reviewed and incorporated within a new administrative instruction covering all forms of harassment,

Welcoming also the new flexible working arrangements authorized in all departments and offices of the United Nations Secretariat,[7]

Noting with concern that the statistics on the representation of women in some organizations of the United Nations system are not fully up to date,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General and the actions described therein;[8]

2. *Regrets* that the goal of 50/50 gender distribution was not met by the end of 2000, and urges the Secretary-General to redouble his efforts to realize significant progress towards this goal in the very near future;

3. *Reaffirms* the urgent goal of achieving 50/50 gender distribution in all categories of posts within the United Nations system, especially at senior and policy-making levels, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, and also taking into account the continuing lack of representation or under representation of women from certain countries, in particular from developing countries, countries with economies in transition and from unrepresented or largely underrepresented Member States;

4. *Expresses concern* that in three departments and offices of the Secretariat women still account for less than 30 per cent of professional staff and that in three organizations of the United Nations system women still account for less than 20 per cent of professional staff, and encourages the Secretary-General and executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system to intensify their efforts to meet the goal of gender balance within the United Nations system;[9]

5. *Welcomes*:

(a) The ongoing personal commitment of the Secretary-General to meeting the goal of gender equality and his assurance that gender balance will be given the highest priority in his continuing efforts to bring about a new management culture in the Organization;

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[5] Ibid., paras. 31 and 38.

[6] Ibid., para. 20.

[7] ST/SGB/2003/4 and A/58/374, para. 59.

[8] A/58/374.

[9] A/58/374, paras. 11 and 44.

(b) The pledge of the executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system to intensify their efforts to meet the gender equality goals set out in the Beijing Declaration,[10] and the Platform for Action;[1]

(c) The inclusion of the objective of improving gender balance in action plans on human resources management for individual departments and offices, and encourages further cooperation, including the sharing of best-practice initiatives, between heads of departments and offices, the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Office of Human Resources Management of the Secretariat in the implementation of those plans, which include specific targets and strategies for improving the representation of women in individual departments and offices;

(d) The decision, within the context of the new staff selection system,[11] to hold heads of departments and offices accountable for meeting the gender targets in departmental human resource action plans through their performance compacts;

(e) The continuing designation of focal points for women in the United Nations system, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that focal points are designated at a sufficiently high level and enjoy full access to senior management, both at Headquarters and in the field;

(f) The continued provision of specific training programmes on gender mainstreaming and gender issues in the workplace, tailored to meet the special needs of individual departments, commends those heads of departments and offices who have launched gender training for their managers and staff, and strongly encourages those who have not yet organized such training to do so as soon as possible;

(g) The formulation of a project by the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management to strengthen the Secretary-General's efforts to achieve gender balance by adopting a more coordinated and integrated approach to this issue, with the purpose of setting and achieving verifiable goals to ensure that gender balance targets are attained by 2006;[12]

(h) The preparation of a research-based analysis by the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, to be presented to the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly, of the probable causes of the slow advancement in the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system, with a view to elaborating new strategies for achieving gender parity;[13]

(i) The commitment of the Office of Human Resources Management and the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women to explore ways to better integrate the departmental focal points in the new staffing system, so that the focal points can continue to play an important role for the periodic and systematic monitoring of the recruitment, retention and career advancement of women, and looks forward to information on this matter in the next report;[14]

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[10] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[11] See ST/AI/2003/4.

[12] A/58/374, para. 48.

[13] Ibid., paras. 56-58 and 75.

[14] Ibid., para. 76.

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in order to achieve and maintain the goal of 50/50 gender distribution with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter:

(a) To continue to develop innovative recruitment strategies to identify and attract suitably qualified women candidates, particularly from and in developing countries and countries with economies in transition and other Member States that are unrepresented or underrepresented in the Secretariat, and in occupations in which women are underrepresented;

(b) To encourage the United Nations system and its agencies and departments to make more effective use of existing information technology resources and systems and other established methods to disseminate information about employment opportunities for women and to better coordinate rosters of potential women candidates;

(c) To continue to monitor closely the progress made by departments and offices in meeting the goal of gender balance, to ensure that the appointment and promotion of suitably qualified women be at least 50 per cent of all appointments and promotions until the goal of 50/50 gender distribution is met;[15]

(d) To strongly encourage heads of departments and offices to continue selecting female candidates when their qualifications are the same as, or better than, those of male candidates, and to effectively encourage, monitor and assess the performance of managers in meeting targets for improving women's representation;

(e) To encourage consultation by heads of departments and offices with departmental focal points on women during the selection process and to ensure that the focal points are designated at a sufficiently high level and enjoy full and effective access to senior management;

(f) To extend ongoing training and sensitization of managers on gender balance issues;[16]

(g) To enable the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women to effectively contribute to, monitor and facilitate the setting and implementation of gender targets in human resource action plans, including by ensuring access to the information required to carry out that work;

(h) To intensify his efforts to create, within existing resources, a gender-sensitive work environment supportive of the needs of his staff, both women and men, including through actively pursuing appropriate work/life policies, such as flexible working time, flexible workplace arrangements, career development, mentoring programmes[17] and childcare and elder-care needs, as well as through the provision of more comprehensive information to prospective candidates and new recruits on employment opportunities for spouses, the provision of support for the activities of women's networks and organizations within the United Nations system and the expansion of gender-sensitivity training in all departments, offices and duty

[15] Ibid., paras. 21 and 55.

[16] Ibid., para. 75.

[17] Ibid., paras. 42 and 67.

stations, including more information and training of staff and managers on the benefits of the work/life policies on productivity and effectiveness;[18]

(i) To continue to work to strengthen further the policy against harassment, including sexual harassment, by, inter alia, ensuring the full implementation of the guidelines for its application at Headquarters and in the field;[19]

7. *Strongly encourages* the Secretary-General, in the context of his commitment to set concrete targets for the appointment of women as his special representatives and special envoys in order to reach the target of 50/50 gender balance by 2015, to intensify his efforts to appoint more women as special representatives and envoys to pursue good offices on his behalf, especially in matters related to peacekeeping, peace-building, preventive diplomacy and economic and social development, as well as in operational activities, including appointment as resident coordinators, and to appoint more women to other high-level positions;[20]

8. *Encourages* the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system to continue to develop common approaches for retaining women, promoting inter-agency mobility and improving career development opportunities;

9. *Encourages* the United Nations and Member States to continue to implement the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", pertaining to the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system;[2]

10. *Strongly encourages* Member States:

(a) To support the efforts of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, funds and programmes to achieve the goal of 50/50 gender distribution, especially at senior and policymaking levels, by identifying and regularly submitting more women candidates for appointment to positions in the United Nations system, by identifying and proposing national recruitment sources, including through the establishment of networks with professional organizations,[21] that will assist the organizations of the United Nations system in identifying suitable women candidates, in particular from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, by creating awareness among their nationals, particularly women, of available vacancies throughout the United Nations system,[22] and by encouraging more women to apply for positions within the Secretariat, the specialized agencies, funds and programmes and the regional commissions, including in areas in which women are underrepresented, such as peacekeeping, peace-building and other non-traditional areas;

(b) To identify women candidates for assignment to peacekeeping missions and to improve the representation of women in military and civilian police contingents;

[18] Ibid., para. 78.
[19] Ibid., para. 64.
[20] S/2003/1154, para. 44.
[21] A/58/374, para. 80.
[22] Ibid., para. 81.

(c) To identify and submit regularly more women candidates for appointment or election to intergovernmental, expert and treaty bodies;

(d) To identify and nominate more women candidates for appointment or election as judges or other senior officials in international courts and tribunals;

(e) To cooperate closely with the United Nations to facilitate spouse employment at all the major duty stations of the Secretariat and the organizations of the United Nations system;[23]

11. Requests the Secretary-General to provide a verbal update to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-eighth session[24] and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including by providing up-to-date statistics on the number and percentage of women in all organizational units and at all levels throughout the United Nations system, as well as gender-segregated attrition rates for all organizational units and at all levels, as well as on the implementation of departmental human resource action plans, in particular for the achievement of the gender targets;

12. *Requests* the United Nations and the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, in order to facilitate the preparation of the above-mentioned report, to submit personnel data on all appointments, promotions and mobility as well as to collect and submit data in a timely fashion to measure accurately progress in achieving gender parity for staff.[25]

[23] Ibid., paras. 60 and 81.

[24] E/CN.6/2003/8, paras. 24 and 49.

[25] A/58/374, para. 77.

Draft resolution IV
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 58/178 of 18 December 2003 and its previous resolutions on the elimination of discrimination against women,

Bearing in mind that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as stated in Articles 1 and 55 of the Charter, is to promote universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of any kind, including distinction as to sex,

Reiterating the need to intensify efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women throughout the world,

Affirming that women and men should participate equally in social, economic and political development, should contribute equally to such development and should share equally in improved conditions of life,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[1] in which the Conference reaffirmed that the human rights of women and the girl child were an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights,

Acknowledging the need for a comprehensive and integrated approach to the promotion and protection of the human rights of women, which includes the integration of the human rights of women into the mainstream of United Nations activities system-wide,

Reaffirming the commitments made in the political declaration[2] and the outcome document[3] of the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", in particular paragraphs 68 (c) and (d) concerning the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[4] and the Optional Protocol thereto,[5]

Recalling that, in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[6] heads of State and Government resolved to implement the Convention,

Recognizing that the equal enjoyment by women of all human rights and fundamental freedoms will promote the realization of the rights of the child, bearing in mind the special needs of girls, and acknowledging the mutual reinforcement of the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child[7] and the Optional Protocols thereto,[8]

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[1] A/CONF.158/24 (Part I), chap. III.
[2] Resolution S-23/2, annex.
[3] Resolution S-23/3, annex.
[4] Resolution 34/180, annex.
[5] Resolution 54/4, annex.
[6] See resolution 55/2.
[7] Resolution 44/25, annex.
[8] Resolution 54/263, annexes I and II.

Welcoming the progress made in the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, but expressing concern about the remaining challenges,

Welcoming also the growing number of States parties to the Convention, which now stands at one hundred and seventy-four,

Recalling the entry into force on 22 December 2000 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Bearing in mind the recommendation of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women that national reports should contain information on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action,[9] in accordance with paragraph 323 of the Platform,

Having considered the report of the Committee on its twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth sessions,[10]

Expressing concern at the great number of reports that are overdue and that continue to be overdue, in particular initial reports, which constitutes an obstacle to the full implementation of the Convention,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General[11] on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;[4]

2. *Expresses disappointment* that universal ratification of the Convention was not achieved by 2000, and urges all States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so;

3. *Urges* States parties to fully comply with their obligations under the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto[5] and to take into consideration the concluding comments as well as the general recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;

4. *Encourages* all relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their mandates, as well as Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and, in particular, women's organizations, as appropriate, to strengthen assistance to States parties, upon their request, in implementing the Convention;

5. *Welcomes* the rapidly growing number of States parties to the Optional Protocol, which now stands at fifty-six, and urges other States parties to the Convention to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol;

6. *Notes* the closed meeting held by the Committee with States parties whose reports were more than five years overdue on 16 July 2003;

7. *Takes note with appreciation* of the fact that the Committee has commenced its work under the Optional Protocol;

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[9] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[10] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/58/38).

[11] A/58/341.

8. *Notes* that some States parties have modified their reservations, expresses satisfaction that some reservations have been withdrawn, and urges States parties to limit the extent of any reservations that they lodge to the Convention, to formulate any such reservations as precisely and as narrowly as possible, to ensure that no reservations are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention, to review their reservations regularly with a view to withdrawing them and to withdraw reservations that are contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention;

9. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Committee of revised reporting guidelines,[12] and urges States parties to adhere to the revised guidelines, in particular with regard to the content and length of reports;

10. *Recalls* the great number of overdue reports, in particular initial reports, and urges States parties to the Convention to make every possible effort to submit their reports on the implementation of the Convention in a timely manner in accordance with article 18 thereof;

11. *Encourages* the Secretariat to extend further technical assistance to States parties, upon their request, to strengthen their capacity in the preparation of reports, in particular initial reports, and invites Governments to contribute to these efforts;

12. *Invites* States parties to make use of the technical assistance provided by the Secretariat to facilitate the preparation of reports, in particular initial reports;

13. *Commends* the Committee on its contributions to the effective implementation of the Convention;

14. *Strongly urges* States parties to the Convention to take appropriate measures so that acceptance of the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention by a two-thirds majority of States parties can be reached as soon as possible so that the amendment may enter into force;

15. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts made so far by the Committee to improve the efficiency of its working methods, and encourages the Committee to continue its activities in this regard;

16. *Encourages* the continued participation of members of the Committee in inter-committee and chairpersons meetings of the human rights treaty bodies, including those on methods of work relating to the State reporting system;

17. *Encourages* the Committee, within its mandate, to continue to contribute to the efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the treaty bodies;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/4 of 6 October 1999, to provide the resources, including staff and facilities, necessary for the effective functioning of the Committee within its full mandate, taking into account in particular the entry into force of the Optional Protocol;

19. *Urges* Governments, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to disseminate the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto;

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[12] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/58/38), annex.

20. *Encourages* States parties to disseminate the concluding comments adopted in relation to the consideration of their reports as well as the general recommendations of the Committee;

21. *Encourages* all relevant entities of the United Nations system to continue to build women's knowledge and understanding of and capacity to utilize human rights instruments, in particular the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto;

22. *Urges* the specialized agencies, at the invitation of the Committee, to submit reports on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities;

23. *Welcomes* the contribution of non-governmental organizations to the work of the Committee;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session a report on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution V
Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 56/129 of 19 December 2001,

Recalling also the importance attached to the problems of rural women by the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[1] the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,[2] the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"[3] and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[4]

Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[5] in which Member States resolved, inter alia, to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable,

Welcoming the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[6] as well as the Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[7] which called upon Governments to mainstream the gender perspective into development at all levels and in all sectors,

Welcoming also the agreed conclusions on the participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on, and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women, adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-seventh session,[8]

Welcoming further the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2003 of the Economic and Social Council, adopted on 2 July 2003,[9] which stressed the need for rural development to become an integral part of national and international development policies and of the activities and programmes of the United Nations system, and called for an enhanced role for rural women at all levels of rural development, including decision-making,

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[1] *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

[2] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[3] Resolutions S-23/2, annex and S-23/3, annex.

[4] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[5] See resolution 55/2.

[6] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publications, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[7] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolutions 1 and 2.

[8] See Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/44.

[9] See A/58/3, part I, chap. III.

Recognizing the critical role and contribution of rural women in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty,

Noting that some effects of globalization may deepen the socio-economic marginalization of rural women,

Noting also that the globalization process has had some benefits by providing opportunities for wage employment for rural women in new sectors,

Mindful of the fact that the available data and existing tools of measurement and analysis are insufficient for a full understanding of the gender implications of the processes of globalization and rural change, and their impact on rural women,

Recognizing the urgent need to take appropriate measures aimed at further improving the situation of women in rural areas,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas;[10]

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General and all relevant United Nations bodies to take into account, while developing future policies, plans and activities, the views expressed by Member States in their replies concerning the desirability of convening a high-level policy consultation at the governmental level, with a view to setting priorities and developing critical strategies that would meet the manifold challenges faced by rural women;

3. *Invites* Member States, in collaboration with the United Nations organizations and civil society, as appropriate, to continue their efforts to implement the outcome of and to ensure an integrated and coordinated follow-up to United Nations conferences and summits, including their five-year reviews, and to attach greater importance to the improvement of the situation of rural women in their national, regional and global development strategies by, inter alia:

(a) Creating an enabling environment for improving the situation of rural women, including integrating a gender perspective in macroeconomic policies and developing appropriate social support systems;

(b) Pursuing the political and socio-economic empowerment of rural women by supporting their full and equal participation in decision-making at all levels, including in rural institutions through, inter alia, the provision of training and capacity-building programmes, including legal literacy;

(c) Integrating a gender perspective into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development policies and programmes, including budget policies, paying increased attention to needs of rural women so as to ensure that they benefit from policies and programmes adopted in all spheres and that the disproportionate number of rural women living in poverty is reduced;

(d) Ensuring that the perspectives of rural women are taken into account and that they participate in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and activities related to emergencies, natural disasters, humanitarian assistance, peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction;

[10] A/58/167.

(e) Investing in and strengthening efforts to meet the basic needs of rural women through capacity-building and human resources development measures and the provision of a safe and reliable water supply and sanitation, nutritional programmes, education and literacy programmes, and health and social support measures, including in the area of sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS treatment, care and support;

(f) Designing and implementing policies that promote and protect women's enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and creating an environment that does not tolerate violations of the rights of women and girls, including domestic violence;

(g) Developing specific assistance programmes and advisory services to promote economic skills of rural women in banking, modern trading and financial procedures and providing micro credit and other financial and business services to a greater number of women in rural areas for their economic empowerment;

(h) Taking steps towards ensuring that women's unpaid work and contributions to on-farm and off-farm production, including income generated in the informal sector, are visible and assessing the feasibility of developing and improving mechanisms, such as time-use studies, to measure in quantitative terms unpaid work, recognizing the potential for it to be reflected in policy and programme formulation and implementation at national and regional levels;

(i) Designing and revising laws to ensure that, where private ownership of land and property exist, rural women are accorded full and equal rights to own land and other property, including through the right to inheritance, and undertaking administrative reforms and other necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit, capital, appropriate technologies and access to markets and information;

(j) Promoting programmes to enable rural women and men to reconcile their work and family responsibilities and to encourage men to share equally with women household and child-care responsibilities;

4. *Invites* the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to pay due attention to the situation of rural women in the consideration of the priority themes identified in its multi-year programme of work for the period 2002-2006;

5. *Invites* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system dealing with issues of development to address and support the empowerment of rural women and their specific needs in their programmes and strategies, including in the context of globalization;

6. *Stresses* the need to identify the best practices for ensuring that rural women have access to and full participation in the area of information and communication technologies, inter alia, through specific studies, and invites the forthcoming World Summit on the Information Society, to be held in Geneva and Tunis, to take into consideration, while addressing gender issues, the priorities and needs of rural women and girls as active users of information and ensure their participation in developing and implementing global information and communication technology strategies;

7. *Invites* Member States, the United Nations and the relevant organizations of its system to ensure that the needs of rural women are mainstreamed into the

integrated process of follow-up to the major summits and conferences in the economic and social fields, in particular the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the International Conference on Financing for Development, and the 2005 review of the progress achieved in implementing all the commitments made in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[5] the Beijing Platform for Action[2] and the outcome documents of the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";[3]

8. *Invites also* Member States to take into consideration the concluding comments and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women concerning their reports to the Committee when formulating policies and designing programmes focused on the improvement of the situation of rural women, including those to be developed and implemented in cooperation with relevant international organizations;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the implementation of the present resolution, addressing different aspects of rural women's empowerment, including the impact of macroeconomic policy frameworks on their situation.

Draft resolution VI
Elimination of domestic violence against women

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the obligation of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] as well as in other relevant international instruments, and reaffirming also that discrimination on the basis of sex is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[2] and other international human rights instruments, and that its elimination is an integral part of efforts towards the elimination of violence against women,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,[3] the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[4] the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,[5] and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[6] as well as the follow-up action by the Commission on the Status of Women on violence against women and the outcome documents of the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[7]

Recalling also all its previous resolutions on the elimination of violence against women,

Taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/45 of 23 April 2003 on the elimination of violence against women,[8] as well as all its previous relevant resolutions on this issue,

Bearing in mind that domestic violence against women and girls is a human rights issue,

Recognizing that domestic violence against women is, inter alia, a societal problem and a manifestation of unequal power relations between women and men,

Recognizing also that both men and women have and should take responsibility for promoting gender equality,

Recognizing further the serious immediate and long-term implications for health, including sexual and reproductive health, that domestic violence against women can represent for individuals and families,

Recognizing the implications of domestic violence on the social and economic development of communities and States,

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[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[3] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[4] See resolution 48/104.

[5] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[6] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[7] Resolutions S-23/2, annex, and S-23/3, annex.

[8] See E/2003/23 (Part I), chap. II, sect. A.

Underlining the importance of the empowerment of women and their economic independence as critical tools to prevent and eliminate domestic violence against women,

1. *Recognizes*:

(a) That domestic violence is violence that occurs within the private sphere, generally between individuals who are related through blood or intimacy;

(b) That domestic violence is one of the most common, least visible forms of violence against women and that its consequences affect many areas of the lives of victims;

(c) That domestic violence can take many different forms, including physical, psychological and sexual violence;

(d) That domestic violence is of public concern and requires States to take serious action to protect victims and prevent domestic violence;

(e) That domestic violence can include economic deprivation and isolation and that such conduct may cause imminent harm to the safety, health or well-being of women;

2. *Welcomes*:

(a) The activities and initiatives of States aimed at the elimination of domestic violence against women, including legal, educational, economic, social and other measures;

(b) The work of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and takes note of the report entitled "Developments in the area of violence against women (1994-2003)";[9]

(c) The efforts undertaken by United Nations bodies, funds and programmes, including the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Population Fund, to address the issue of domestic violence and encourages them to coordinate their efforts, and, in particular, expresses its appreciation for the initiatives of the United Nations Development Fund for Women to combat violence against women at the international, regional and national levels, as well as the *World Report on Violence and Health*[10] launched by the World Health Organization in 2002, particularly its consideration of gender-based violence;

(d) The work carried out by civil society, including non-governmental organizations, such as women's organizations, and community-based organizations and individuals, aimed at the elimination of domestic violence against women, inter alia, by raising awareness of its harmful effects, and in the provision of support services to women victims of violence;

3. *Strongly condemns* all forms of domestic violence against women and girls, and in this regard, calls for the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence in the family, including where perpetrated or condoned by the State;

4. *Expresses its concern*:

[9] E/CN.4/2003/75 and Corr.1 and Add.1-4 and Add.2/Corr.1.

[10] Geneva, World Health Organization, 2003.

(a) That women continue to be victims of domestic violence and at the continuing occurrence in all regions of the world of domestic violence, which takes many different forms, and at failures to prosecute and punish the perpetrators;

(b) That domestic violence, including sexual violence in marriage, is still treated as a private matter in some countries;

5. *Stresses* that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish the perpetrators of domestic violence against women and to provide protection to the victims, and also stresses that not to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

6. *Reaffirms* the commitment of States to establish legislation and/or strengthen appropriate mechanisms to handle criminal matters relating to all forms of domestic violence, including marital rape and sexual abuse of women and girls, and to ensure that such cases are brought to justice swiftly;

7. *Calls upon* States:

(a) To adopt, strengthen and implement legislation that prohibits domestic violence, prescribes punitive measures and establishes adequate legal protection against domestic violence and periodically to review, evaluate and revise these laws and regulations so as to ensure their effectiveness in eliminating domestic violence;

(b) To make domestic sexual violence a criminal offence and to ensure proper investigation and prosecution of perpetrators;

(c) To adopt and/or strengthen policies and legislation in order to strengthen preventive measures, protect the human rights of victims, ensure proper investigation and prosecution of perpetrators, and provide legal and social assistance to victims of domestic violence, as well as adopt policies with regard to the rehabilitation of perpetrators;

(d) To intensify measures aimed at preventing domestic violence against women;

(e) To ensure greater protection for women, inter alia, by means of, where appropriate, orders restraining violent spouses from entering the family home, or by the banning of violent spouses from contacting the victim;

(f) To provide or facilitate the provision of adequate training, inter alia, gender-awareness training, to all professionals who deal with domestic violence, in particular with victims of domestic violence, police officers, judicial and legal personnel, health personnel, educators, youth workers and social workers;

(g) To provide or facilitate the provision of assistance to victims of domestic violence in lodging police reports and receiving treatment and support, which may include the setting up of one-stop centres, as well as the establishment of safe shelters and centres for victims of domestic violence;

(h) To protect women from further victimization in the process of seeking redress because of gender insensitive laws or practices;

(i) To establish and/or strengthen police response protocols and procedures to ensure that all appropriate actions are taken to protect victims of domestic violence and to prevent further acts of domestic violence;

(j) To take measures to ensure the protection of women subjected to violence, access to just and effective remedies, inter alia, through compensation and indemnification and healing of victims, and the rehabilitation of perpetrators;

(k) To intensify efforts to raise collective and individual awareness about violence against women, including through human rights education, to highlight the role of men and boys in the prevention and elimination of domestic violence against women, and to encourage and support initiatives to promote attitudinal and behavioural change on the part of, and the rehabilitation of, perpetrators of violence against women;

(l) To encourage the efforts of the media to engage in awareness-raising campaigns;

(m) To take all measures to empower women and strengthen their economic independence, including through equal remuneration for equal work, and increased job opportunities for women, as well as equal access to and control over economic resources, including land, credit, microcredit and traditional saving schemes, such as women's banks and cooperatives, and by ensuring property rights and the right to inheritance, with a view to reducing women's vulnerability to all forms of violence, including domestic violence and trafficking;

(n) Not to invoke any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations to eliminate violence against women;

(o) To consider, as a matter of priority, becoming parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

(p) That are parties to the Convention to include in their reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women information on legal and policy measures adopted and implemented in their efforts to prevent and eliminate domestic violence against women and to cross-reference that information, where appropriate, in reports to other human rights treaty bodies;

(q) To cooperate closely with relevant specialized agencies and United Nations funds and programmes, as well as with regional intergovernmental organizations, as appropriate, and relevant community and non-governmental organizations, including women's organizations, in an effort to eliminate violence against women;

(r) To collect, update and improve the collection of data on violence against women, including through sex-disaggregated information systems, which should be made public and disseminated widely;

8. *Emphasizes* the need for technical and financial assistance to developing countries in their efforts to eliminate domestic violence against women from United Nations funds and programmes, international and regional financial institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, and civil society, as well as the need for assistance from the international community to non-governmental organizations and community-based groups active in this field;

9. *Encourages* States to contribute or increase their contribution to the Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women managed by the United Nations Development Fund for Women;

10. *Invites*:

(a) Relevant specialized agencies, United Nations bodies, regional intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to exchange information on the subject of the present resolution, and encourages the exchange of such information between non-governmental organizations active in this field and the relevant human rights treaty bodies;

(b) The relevant human rights treaty bodies to continue to address this issue, where appropriate;[11]

11. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this question at its sixtieth session under the item entitled "Advancement of women".

[11] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/47/38), chap. I.

Draft resolution VII
Future operation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject, in particular resolutions 55/219 of 23 December 2000, 56/125 of 19 December 2001 and 57/175 of 18 December 2002,

Recalling also that, in its resolution 56/125, it decided to establish a working group mandated to make recommendations to the General Assembly on the future operation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women,

Reaffirming its resolution 57/311 of 18 June 2003, entitled "Financial situation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women",

Welcoming Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/57 of 24 July 2003, in which the Council decided to amend articles III and IV of the statute of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women,

Welcoming also the efforts and the consistency in the labour of the Working Group on the Future Operation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women in promoting a comprehensive approach to the revitalization and strengthening of the Institute, which has led to the adoption of important institutional and political changes that are contributing to the strengthening of the Institute,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Working Group on the Future Operation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women,[1] in which the Working Group, inter alia, reaffirmed the mandate of the Institute in the field of gender equality and the advancement of women and stressed the need for it to be reformed and revitalized, as recommended in its report and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 57/175;

2. *Decides* to continue monitoring the implementation of the measures recommended by the Working Group in its report,[2] in close consultation with the Secretary-General;

3. *Stresses* the critical importance of voluntary financial contributions by Member States to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women to enable it to carry out its mandate;

4. *Urges* Member States to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund, particularly during this critical transitional period;

5. *Decides* to continue to provide its full support to the current efforts to revitalize the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and, in this regard, to provide funds complementary to the existing ones, if

[1] A/58/540.
[2] A/57/330 and Add.1.

needed, to ensure that the Institute will have adequate resources to function for a period of one year and to submit its report to the General Assembly as requested in resolution 57/311, in the light of the delay in appointing a Director to implement a feasible work programme and fund-raising activities;

6. *Decides* to request the Working Group to continue monitoring the implementation of the recommendations and measures contained in its report[2] until the new executive board convenes its first session;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

44. The Third Committee also recommends to the General Assembly adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination

The General Assembly decides to endorse the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination, as contained in chapter III, section C.4, of its report.[1]

Draft decision II
Documents considered by the Secretary-General in connection with the advancement of women

The General Assembly takes note of the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Development Fund for Women;[2]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the future operation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women;[3]

(c) Report of the Working Group on the Future Operation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women.[4]

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/58/16).
[2] A/58/168.
[3] A/58/417.
[4] A/58/540.

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Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 111

Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Abdulla Eid Salman **Al-Sulaiti** (Qatar)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2003, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century'" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee held a substantive debate on the item jointly with item 110 at its 11th to 16th meetings, from 15 to 17 October 2003, and took up a proposal relating to the item at its 57th meeting, on 26 November. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/58/SR. 11-16 and 57).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Relevant sections of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 2003;[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to and progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session (A/58/166).

[1] A/58/3 (Parts I and I!); for the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/58/3/Rev.1).

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4. At the 11th meeting, on 15 October, introductory statements were made by the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) (see A/C.3/58/SR.11).

5. At the same meeting, the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Executive Director of UNIFEM engaged in a dialogue with the Committee in which the representatives of Italy, Singapore, Canada, the Syrian Arab Republic, Cuba, Afghanistan, Peru, Croatia and Spain and the observer for Palestine took part (see A/C.3/58/SR.11).

6. Also at the same meeting, the Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women made a statement (see A/C.3/58/SR.11).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.85

7. At the 57th meeting, on 26 November, the Chairman introduced a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly" (A/C.3/58/L.85), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.85 without a vote (see para. 10).

9. After the draft resolution was adopted, a statement was made by the representative of the United States of America (see A/C.3/58/SR.57).

III. Recommendation of the Third Committee

10. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the question, including resolution 57/182 of 18 December 2002,

Recalling also the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[1] and the proposed actions and initiatives to overcome obstacles and challenges thereto,

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[2] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session are important contributions to the advancement of women worldwide in the achievement of gender equality and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned, as well as by non-governmental organizations,

Stressing the importance of strong, sustained political will and commitment at the national, regional and international levels for achieving full and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,

Recognizing that the responsibility for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session rests primarily at the national level and that strengthened efforts are necessary in this respect, and reiterating that enhanced international cooperation is essential for the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,

Welcoming the increased attention to the situation of women and girls and the integration of a gender perspective in the work of the United Nations, in particular in the outcomes of major conferences, special sessions and summit conferences and their follow-up processes, and reaffirming its commitment to building on progress achieved in this respect,

Emphasizing the importance of Economic and Social Council decision 2003/287 of 24 July 2003, in which the Council decided to undertake, during its coordination segment in 2004, a review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of its agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, adopted

[1] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[2] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

by the Council on 18 July 1997,[3] and taking note of Council resolution 2003/49 of 24 July 2003,

Reaffirming the primary and essential role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in promoting the advancement of women and gender equality, while noting the open debate on women and peace and security held in the Security Council on 28 and 29 October 2002[4] and on 29 October 2003,[5]

Taking note of the relevant General Assembly resolutions and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000,

1. *Reaffirms* the goals, objectives and commitments contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[2] and also in the political declaration and further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session;[1]

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to and progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;[6]

3. *Calls upon* Governments, the relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to continue to take effective action to achieve the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

4. *Reaffirms* its decision that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with their respective mandates and with General Assembly resolutions 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 and other relevant resolutions, constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that plays the primary role in overall policy-making and follow-up and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

5. *Also reaffirms* that the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the twenty-third special session will be undertaken within the framework of an integrated and coordinated follow-up to major international conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

6. *Strongly encourages* Governments to continue to support the role and contribution of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

7. *Calls upon* Governments and all other relevant actors to continue to integrate a gender perspective into the implementation of and follow-up to recent

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[3] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/52/3/Rev.1), chap. IV, para. 4.

[4] See S/PV.4635 and S/PV.4635 (Resumption 1).

[5] See S/PV.4852 and S/PV.4852 (Resumption 1).

[6] A/58/166.

United Nations conferences, summits and special sessions and in future reports on this subject;

8. *Invites* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[7] to include information on measures taken to implement the outcome of the twenty-third special session, as well as the Beijing Platform for Action, in their reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women under article 18 of the Convention;

9. *Urges* Member States to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,[8] in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and welcomes the imminent entry into force of that Protocol on 25 December 2003;

10. *Invites* Member States to submit, before 30 April 2004, responses to the questionnaire of the Secretariat on the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, in preparation for the review and appraisal mandated in the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women;[9]

11. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to continue its efforts to ensure that gender mainstreaming is an integral part of all activities in its work and that of its subsidiary bodies, building upon agreed conclusions 1997/2 adopted by the Council on 18 July 1997,[3] and in this regard welcomes the inclusion of the question of gender mainstreaming in its agenda, the consideration of annual progress made in gender mainstreaming and the attention given to the gender perspective in the outcomes of the substantive session of 2003 of the Council;

12. *Encourages* the Economic and Social Council to request the regional commissions, within their respective mandates and resources, to intensify efforts to build up a database, to be updated regularly, in which all programmes and projects carried out in their respective regions by organizations or bodies of the United Nations system are listed, and to facilitate the dissemination of information on such programmes and projects, as well as the evaluation of their impact on the empowerment of women through the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;

13. *Welcomes* the contribution of the Commission on the Status of Women to the follow-up and review of the future implementation of the commitments made in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, reaffirms that the Commission will continue to play a central role in this regard, and encourages Governments, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and civil society to continue to support its work;

14. *Recognizes* the importance attached to the regional and subregional monitoring of the global and regional platforms for action and of the implementation of the outcome of the twenty-third special session by regional commissions and

[7] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[8] Resolution 55/25, annexes I-III, and resolution 55/255, annex.

[9] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 7* (E/2001/99), resolution 2001/4.

other regional or subregional structures, within their mandates, in consultation with Governments, and calls for the promotion of further cooperation in that respect among Governments and, where appropriate, national machineries of the same region;

15. *Also recognizes* that sustained political will and commitment at the national, regional and international levels are essential elements for the full and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

16. *Emphasizes* that the promotion of gender equality and of women's empowerment and participation, together with the mainstreaming of a gender perspective, are among the essential elements for advancing the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[10] with a view in particular to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions;

17. *Recognizes* that adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels, as well as new and additional resources for the developing countries, including the least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources, will also be required;

18. *Emphasizes* that the creation of an enabling environment at the national and international levels, including through ensuring the participation of women on an equal basis with men at all levels of decision-making, is necessary to ensure the full participation of women in economic activities, and calls upon States to remove obstacles to the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

19. *Reaffirms* that, in order to ensure the effective implementation of the strategic objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, the United Nations system should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective, including through the work of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the maintenance of gender units and focal points;

20. *Also reaffirms* that United Nations bodies that focus on gender issues, such as the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Children's Fund, have a critical role to play in the implementation of the objectives of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and recognizes that gender specialists throughout the United Nations system also have an important role to play in this regard;

21. *Recognizes* the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building, the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security and the need to increase their role in decision-making with regard to

[10] See resolution 55/2.

conflict prevention and resolution, and urges the United Nations system and Governments to make further efforts in this regard and to take steps to ensure and support the full participation of women at all levels of decision-making and implementation in development activities and peace processes, including conflict prevention and resolution, post-conflict reconstruction, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace-building, as well as through the integration of a gender perspective into those United Nations processes;

22. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts made by all relevant organizations of the United Nations system in promoting the role of women in conflict prevention and resolution;

23. *Welcomes* the convening of the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held at Geneva in 2003 and in Tunis in 2005, and encourages Governments and all other stakeholders to integrate a gender perspective into the preparatory processes and outcome documents, taking into account the agreed conclusions on participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women, adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-seventh session,[11] and the report of the Secretary-General;[6]

24. *Welcomes also* the entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[12] and urges States parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol;

25. *Requests* all bodies that deal with programme and budgetary matters, including the Committee for Programme and Coordination, to ensure that all programmes, medium-term plans and programme budgets visibly mainstream a gender perspective;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to disseminate the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session as widely as possible in all the official languages of the United Nations;

27. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to integrate a gender perspective in his reporting to the General Assembly, in order to support gender-sensitive policy formulation;

28. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report annually to the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women on follow-up to and progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, with an assessment of progress made in mainstreaming a gender perspective within the United Nations system, including by providing information on key achievements, lessons learned and best practices, and to recommend further measures and strategies for future action within the United Nations system;

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his annual and quinquennial reports on the follow-up to the United Nations Millennium Declaration[10] an

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[11] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 7* (E/2003/27), chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution III.

[12] Resolution 54/4, annex.

assessment of the progress made in promoting the goal of gender equality, in particular in relation to the development goals set forth in the Millennium Declaration, and recommendations to improve the measurement and coverage of indicators so that progress towards gender equality can be evaluated over time;

30. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all United Nations personnel and officials at Headquarters and in the field, especially in field operations, receive training on mainstreaming a gender perspective in their work, including gender impact analysis, and to ensure appropriate follow-up to such training;

31. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide, by the end of 2004, a compilation of updated and substantiated statistics from Member States and other relevant sources on the situation of women and girls, including older women, in countries around the world, including by issuing a new volume of *The World's Women: Trends and Statistics*;

32. *Recognizes* the need to further include a gender perspective in the work of its Main Committees;

33. *Recalls*, in this regard, its request to each functional commission of the Economic and Social Council to examine its methods of work in order to better pursue the implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits, recognizing that there is no need for a uniform approach since each functional commission has its own specificity while noting that modern methods of work can better guarantee the review of progress made in implementation at all levels, on the basis of a report containing recommendations to be submitted by the Secretary-General to each functional commission and relevant subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council on their methods of work, in accordance with the provisions defined by the respective outcomes and relevant decisions taken by each body, bearing in mind the progress recently achieved in this regard by certain commissions, in particular the Commission on Sustainable Development, and recalling that the functional commissions and other relevant bodies of the Economic and Social Council should report to the Council no later than 2005 on the outcome of this examination;

34. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century'".

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Agenda item 112

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Abdulla Eid Salman **Al-Sulaiti** (Qatar)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2003, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 30th to 33rd, 39th, 42nd and 43rd meetings, from 3 to 5 and from 11 to 13 November 2003. At its 30th to 33rd meetings, the Committee held a general discussion on the item. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/58/SR.30-33, 39, 42 and 43).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Relevant sections of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 2003;[1]

(b) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2002;[2]

(c) Report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[3]

[1] A/58/3 (Parts I and II); for the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/58/3/Rev.1).
[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/58/12).
[3] Ibid., *Supplement No. 12A* (A/58/12/Add.1).

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(d) Report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States (A/58/281);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors (A/58/299);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa (A/58/353);

(g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on strengthening the capacity of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to carry out its mandate (A/58/410);

(h) Letter dated 3 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final communiqué of the annual coordination meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, held at United Nations Headquarters on 30 September 2003 (A/58/415-S/2003/952).

4. At the 30th meeting, on 3 November, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees made an introductory statement (see A/C.3/58/SR.30).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee engaged in a dialogue with the High Commissioner, in which the representatives of Pakistan, Japan, Mexico, the Russian Federation, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Sudan and Yemen took part (see A/C.3/58/SR.30).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.37/Rev.1

6. At the 42nd meeting, on 12 November, the representative of the Sudan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States, as well as Cyprus, the Czech Republic and Norway, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa"(A/C.3/58/L.37/Rev.1). Subsequently, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

7. At its 43rd meeting, on 13 November, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.37/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 34, draft resolution I).

9. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Chile and Greece (see A/C.3/58/SR.43).

10. At the 48th meeting, on 17 November, the representative of Canada made a statement with regard to the draft resolution (see A/C.3/58/SR.48).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.38

11. At the 42nd meeting, on 12 November, the representative of the Sudan, on behalf of Afghanistan, Angola, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, the Niger, Pakistan, Panama, Qatar, the Sudan, Turkey, Yemen and the United Republic of Tanzania, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors" (A/C.3/58/L.38).

12. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of the Sudan orally revised it as follows:

(a) In the third preambular paragraph, the words "malaria, human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome and tuberculosis," were replaced by the words "human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, malaria and tuberculosis";

(b) In the sixth preambular paragraph, the word "*Reaffirming*" was replaced by the word "*Recalling*";

(c) In operative paragraph 7, the words ",international human rights law and international refugee law" were inserted after the words "international humanitarian law";

(d) In operative paragraph 9, the word "among" was inserted after the words "*Acknowledges* that education is".

13. Also at the 42nd meeting, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, as orally revised.

14. At the 43rd meeting, on 13 November, the representative of the Sudan, on behalf of the sponsors, further orally revised operative paragraph 7 of the draft resolution by replacing the words "to respect international humanitarian law, international human rights law and international refugee law" with the words "to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law", and replacing the words "Geneva Convention" with "Geneva Conventions".

15. Burkina Faso, Burundi, Lesotho, Morocco, Nigeria, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal and Somalia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, as further orally revised.

16. At the same meeting, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

17. Statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America and Switzerland (see A/C.3/58/SR.43).

18. Also at the 43rd meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.38, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 34, draft resolution II).

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.39

19. At the 39th meeting, on 11 November, the representative of Denmark, on behalf of Afghanistan, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, the Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, the Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Zambia and Zimbabwe, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" (A/C.3/58/L.39). Subsequently, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Burundi, El Salvador, Estonia, the Gambia, Grenada, Haiti, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mali, Mauritania, Nauru, Samoa, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Uganda joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

20. At its 43rd meeting, on 13 November, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

21. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.39 without a vote (see para. 34, draft resolution III).

D. Draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.40

22. At the 39th meeting, on 11 November, the representative of Egypt, on behalf also of Zambia, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" (A/C.3/58/L.40). Subsequently, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, the Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia, the Sudan and Zimbabwe joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

23. At its 43rd meeting, on 13 November, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

24. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.40 without a vote (see para. 34, draft resolution IV).

25. The representative of Egypt made a statement (see A/C.3/58/SR.43).

E. Draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.41

26. At the 39th meeting, on 11 November, the representative of Denmark, on behalf of Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Canada, Chile, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Zambia, introduced and orally corrected a draft resolution entitled "Implementing actions proposed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to strengthen the capacity of his Office to carry out its mandate" (A/C.3/58/L.41). Subsequently, Afghanistan, Armenia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Colombia, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Iceland, Jordan, Latvia, Lithuania, Monaco, Morocco, Namibia, New Zealand, the Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Swaziland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia and the United Republic of Tanzania joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

27. At its 43rd meeting, on 13 November, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

28. At the same meeting, the representative of Denmark made a statement of clarification with regard to the draft resolution (see A/C.3/58/SR.43).

29. Also at its 43rd meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.41, as corrected, without a vote (see para. 34, draft resolution V).

F. Draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.43

30. At the 42nd meeting, on 12 November, the representative of the Russian Federation, on behalf of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States" (A/C.3/58/L.43). Subsequently, Afghanistan, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Niger, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

31. At its 43rd meeting, on 13 November, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

32. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.43 without a vote (see para. 34, draft resolution VI).

33. The representative of the Russian Federation made a statement (see A/C.3/58/SR.43).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

34. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 57/183 of 18 December 2002,

Recalling also the provisions of its resolution 2312 (XXII) of 14 December 1967, by which it adopted the Declaration on Territorial Asylum,

Recalling further the Organization of African Unity Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa of 1969[1] and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,[2]

Recalling the Khartoum Declaration[3] and the Recommendations on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa[4] adopted by the Organization of African Unity[5] at the ministerial meeting held at Khartoum on 13 and 14 December 1998,

Welcoming decision EC/CL/Dec.27 (III) on the situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa adopted by the Executive Council of the African Union at its third ordinary session, held at Maputo from 4 to 8 July 2003,

Welcoming also decision AHG/Dec.165 (XXXVII) on the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-seventh ordinary session, held at Lusaka from 9 to 11 July 2001,[6]

Recalling its resolution 57/2 of 16 September 2002 on the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and affirming that international support for the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development[7] is essential, notably as it relates to refugees, returnees and displaced persons,

Reaffirming that the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees,[8] together with the 1967 Protocol thereto,[9] as complemented by the Organization of African Unity Convention of 1969, remains the foundation of the international refugee protection regime in Africa,

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1001, No. 14691.
[2] Ibid., vol. 1520, No. 26363.
[3] A/54/682, annex I.
[4] Ibid., annex II.
[5] On 8 July 2002, the Organization of African Unity ceased to exist and, in its place, the African Union came into force on 9 July 2002.
[6] See A/56/457, annex I.
[7] A/57/304, annex.
[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.
[9] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

Recognizing that the fundamental principles and rights embodied in those conventions have provided a resilient protection regime within which millions of refugees have been able to find safety from armed conflicts and persecution,

Welcoming in that regard the Declaration adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of States Parties to the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, held at Geneva on 12 and 13 December 2001,[10] as an expression of their collective commitment to full and effective implementation of the Convention and the Protocol,

Recalling the Comprehensive Implementation Plan adopted by the Special Meeting of Governmental and Non-Governmental Technical Experts convened by the Organization of African Unity and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at Conakry from 27 to 29 March 2000 on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Organization of African Unity Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa of 1969, and noting its endorsement by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its seventy-second ordinary session, held at Lomé from 6 to 8 July 2000,[11]

Commending the convening of the first African Union Ministerial Conference on Human Rights in Africa, which was held at Kigali on 8 May 2003, and recalling the attention paid to issues relevant to refugees and displaced persons in the Declaration[12] and Plan of Action adopted by the Conference,

Recognizing the contributions made by African States to the development of regional standards for the protection of refugees and returnees, and noting with appreciation that countries of asylum are hosting refugees in a humanitarian spirit and in a spirit of African solidarity and brotherhood,

Recognizing also the need for States to address resolutely the root causes of forced displacement and to create conditions that facilitate durable solutions for refugees and displaced persons, and stressing in that regard the need for States to foster peace, stability and prosperity throughout the African continent to forestall large refugee flows,

Convinced of the need to strengthen the capacity of States to provide assistance to and protection for refugees, returnees and displaced persons and of the need for the international community, within the context of burden-sharing, to increase its material, financial and technical assistance to the countries affected by refugees, returnees and displaced persons, to simultaneously address the inadequacies of existing assistance arrangements and to support initiatives in this regard,

Acknowledging with appreciation that some assistance is already rendered by the international community to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and host countries in Africa,

Noting the "Convention Plus" initiative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which is aimed at strengthening the international protection regime through the development of comprehensive approaches to

[10] HCR/MMSP/2001/10, annex I.

[11] See A/55/286, annex I, decision CM/Dec.531 (LXXII), para. 8.

[12] See MIN/CONF/HRA/Decl.1 (I).

resolving refugee situations, including improving international burden- and responsibility-sharing and realizing durable solutions,

Deeply concerned about the continuing critical humanitarian situation in African countries, in particular in the Horn of Africa and southern Africa, aggravated, among other things, by persistent natural disasters, including drought, floods and desertification, which can precipitate the displacement of people,

Noting with great concern that, despite all the efforts made so far by the United Nations, the African Union and others, the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Africa remains precarious,

Stressing that the provision of relief and assistance to African refugees by the international community should be on an equitable and non-discriminatory basis,

Considering that, among refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons, women and children are the majority of the population affected by conflict and bear the brunt of atrocities and other consequences of conflict,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General[13] and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[14]

2. *Notes with concern* that the deteriorating socio-economic situation, compounded by political instability, internal strife, human rights violations and natural disasters, has led to increased numbers of refugees and displaced persons in some countries of Africa, and remains particularly concerned about the impact of large-scale refugee populations on the security, socio-economic situation and environment of countries of asylum;

3. *Encourages* African States to ensure the full implementation of and follow-up to the Comprehensive Implementation Plan adopted by the Special Meeting of Governmental and Non-Governmental Technical Experts convened by the Organization of African Unity and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at Conakry from 27 to 29 March 2000 on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Organization of African Unity Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa of 1969;[1]

4. *Calls upon* States and other parties to armed conflict to observe scrupulously the letter and the spirit of international humanitarian law, bearing in mind that armed conflict is one of the principal causes of forced displacement in Africa;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* for the leadership shown by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees since assuming office in January 2001, and commends the Office of the High Commissioner for its ongoing efforts, with the support of the international community, to assist African countries of asylum and to respond to the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa;

6. *Reaffirms* that international protection and the search for durable solutions for refugees and, as appropriate, other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, which were examined, inter alia, in the Global

[13] A/58/353.

[14] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/58/12).

Consultations process and are reflected in the Agenda for Protection,[15] are at the core of the mandate of the Office;

7. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner to strengthen its linkages with the other parts of the United Nations system in order to enhance refugee protection and to identify and implement durable solutions for refugees and other persons of concern to the Office, and appreciates the efforts of the Office to strengthen partnerships with operational and implementing partners;

8. *Takes note* of the Ministerial Meeting of States Parties to the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees as an expression of their collective commitment to full and effective implementation of the Convention[8] and the Protocol;[9]

9. *Reaffirms* that the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, as complemented by the Organization of African Unity Convention of 1969, remain the foundation of the international refugee protection regime in Africa, encourages African States that have not yet done so to accede to those instruments, and calls upon States parties to the Conventions to reaffirm their commitment to their ideals and to respect and observe their provisions;

10. *Notes* the need for States to address the root causes of forced displacement in Africa, and calls upon African States, the international community and relevant United Nations organizations to take concrete action to meet the needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons for protection and assistance and to contribute generously to national projects and programmes aimed at alleviating their plight;

11. *Also notes* the link, inter alia, between human rights violations, poverty, natural disasters and environmental degradation and population displacement, and calls for redoubled and concerted efforts by States, in collaboration with the African Union, to promote and protect human rights for all and to address those problems;

12. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to cooperate with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, within their respective mandates, in the promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa, and welcomes in this regard the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on 26 May 2003;

13. *Notes with appreciation* the ongoing mediation and conflict resolution efforts carried out by African States, the African Union and subregional organizations, as well as the establishment of regional mechanisms for conflict prevention and resolution, and urges all relevant parties to address the humanitarian consequences of conflicts;

14. *Expresses its appreciation and strong support* for those African Governments and local populations that, in spite of the general deterioration of socio-economic and environmental conditions and overstretched national resources, continue to accept the additional burden imposed upon them by increasing numbers

[15] Ibid., *Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/57/12/Add.1), annex IV.

of refugees and displaced persons, in compliance with the relevant principles of asylum;

15. *Welcomes* the decision of African heads of State and Government to address the situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa within the context of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;[7]

16. *Expresses its concern* about instances in which the fundamental principles of asylum are jeopardized by unlawful expulsion or refoulement or by threats to the life, physical security, integrity, dignity and well-being of refugees;

17. *Reaffirms* that host States have the primary responsibility to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, and calls upon States, in cooperation with international organizations, within their mandates, to take all necessary measures to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection and, in particular, to ensure that the civilian and humanitarian nature of refugee camps is not compromised by the presence or the activities of armed elements or used for purposes that are incompatible with their civilian character;

18. *Deplores* the deaths, injuries and other forms of violence sustained by staff members of the Office of the High Commissioner, urges States, parties to conflict and all other relevant actors to take all necessary measures to protect activities related to humanitarian assistance, prevent attacks on and kidnapping of national and international humanitarian workers and ensure their safety and security, calls upon States to investigate fully any crime committed against humanitarian personnel and to bring to justice persons responsible for such crimes, and calls upon organizations and aid workers to abide by the national laws and regulations of the countries in which they operate;

19. *Condemns* any exploitation of refugees, especially their sexual abuse and exploitation, calls for those responsible for such deplorable acts to be brought to justice, welcomes in this regard the conclusion on protection from sexual abuse and exploitation adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its fifty-fourth session,[16] and notes with deep concern that inadequate protection and/or inappropriate assistance, particularly concerning the quantity and quality of food and other material assistance, increases the vulnerability of refugees and asylum-seekers to sexual abuse and exploitation;

20. *Welcomes* the decision by the Office of the High Commissioner to put into place a code of conduct for humanitarian personnel aimed at preventing the exploitation of refugees, especially in the area of sexual exploitation;

21. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the African Union, subregional organizations and all African States, in conjunction with agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the international community, to strengthen and revitalize existing partnerships and forge new ones in support of the international refugee protection system;

22. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the international community and other concerned entities to intensify their support to African Governments through appropriate capacity-building activities, including training of

[16] Ibid., *Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/58/12/Add.1), chap. III.E.

relevant officers, disseminating information about refugee instruments and principles, providing financial, technical and advisory services to accelerate the enactment or amendment and implementation of legislation relating to refugees, strengthening emergency response and enhancing capacities for the coordination of humanitarian activities;

23. *Reaffirms* the right of return and the principle of voluntary repatriation, appeals to countries of origin and countries of asylum to create conditions that are conducive to voluntary repatriation, and recognizes that, while voluntary repatriation remains the pre-eminent solution, local integration and third-country resettlement, where appropriate and feasible, are also viable options for dealing with the situation of African refugees who, owing to prevailing circumstances in their respective countries of origin, are unable to return home;

24. *Notes with satisfaction* the voluntary return of millions of refugees to their homelands following the successful repatriation and reintegration operations carried out by the Office of the High Commissioner with the cooperation and collaboration of countries hosting refugees and countries of origin, and welcomes the efforts under way, in cooperation with other United Nations agencies and development actors, to promote a framework for durable solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, including the 4Rs approach (repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction) to sustainable return;

25. *Appeals* to the international community to respond positively, in the spirit of solidarity and burden-sharing, to the third-country resettlement requests of African refugees, and notes with appreciation that some African countries have offered resettlement places for refugees;

26. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide financial and material assistance that allows for the implementation of community-based development programmes that benefit both refugees and host communities, as appropriate, in agreement with host countries and consistent with humanitarian objectives;

27. *Welcomes* the programmes carried out by the Office of the High Commissioner with host Governments, the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and the international community to address the environmental and socio-economic impact of refugee populations;

28. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide material and financial assistance for the implementation of programmes intended for the rehabilitation of the environment and infrastructure affected by refugees in countries of asylum;

29. *Expresses its concern* about the long stay of refugees in certain African countries, and calls upon the Office of the High Commissioner to keep its programmes under review, in conformity with its mandate in the host countries, taking into account the increasing needs of refugees;

30. *Notes* the conclusion adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its fifty-fourth session on the importance of early and effective registration systems and censuses as a tool of protection and as a means to enable the quantification and

assessment of needs for the provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance and to implement appropriate durable solutions;

31. *Emphasizes* the need for the Office of the High Commissioner to collate statistics, on a regular basis, on the number of refugees living outside refugee camps in certain African countries with a view to evaluating and addressing the needs of those refugees;

32. *Urges* the international community, in a spirit of international solidarity and burden-sharing, to continue to fund generously the refugee programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner and, taking into account the substantially increased needs of programmes in Africa, to ensure that Africa receives a fair and equitable share of the resources designated for refugees;

33. *Requests* all Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to pay particular attention to meeting the special needs of refugee women and children and displaced persons, including those with special protection needs;

34. *Calls upon* States and the Office of the High Commissioner to make renewed efforts to ensure that the rights, needs and dignity of elderly refugees are fully respected and addressed through appropriate programme activities;

35. *Expresses grave concern* about the plight of internally displaced persons in Africa, calls upon States to take concrete action to pre-empt internal displacement and to meet the protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons, recalls in that regard the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,[17] and urges the international community, led by relevant United Nations organizations, to contribute generously to national projects and programmes aimed at alleviating the plight of internally displaced persons;

36. *Invites* the Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons to continue his ongoing dialogue with Member States and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in accordance with his mandate, and to include information thereon in his reports to the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly;

37. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, taking fully into account the efforts expended by countries of asylum, under the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions", and to present an oral report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2004.

[17] E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

Draft resolution II
Assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/172 of 23 December 1994, 50/150 of 21 December 1995, 51/73 of 12 December 1996, 52/105 of 12 December 1997, 53/122 of 9 December 1998, 54/145 of 17 December 1999 and 56/136 of 19 December 2001,

Aware of the fact that the majority of refugees are children and women,

Bearing in mind that unaccompanied refugee minors are among the most vulnerable refugees and the most at risk of neglect, violence, forced military recruitment, sexual assault, abuse and vulnerability to infectious disease, such as human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, malaria and tuberculosis, and therefore require special assistance and care,

Mindful of the fact that the ultimate solution to the plight of unaccompanied minors is their return to and reunification with their families,

Bearing in mind that the most important steps in working with unaccompanied minors are rapid identification, immediate registration and documentation and tracing of family,

Recalling the outcome document entitled "A world fit for children", adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh special session on 10 May 2002,[1]

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Children's Fund in the identification and tracing of unaccompanied minors, and welcoming their efforts in reunifying families of refugees,

Welcoming the efforts exerted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to reunite refugees with their families,

Noting the efforts of the High Commissioner to ensure the protection of and assistance to refugees, including children and unaccompanied minors, and that further enhanced efforts need to be exerted to this effect,

Recalling the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, [2] and the 1951 Convention[3] and 1967 Protocol thereto[4] relating to the Status of Refugees,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

2. *Expresses its deep concern* at the continuing plight of unaccompanied refugee minors, and emphasizes once again the urgent need for their early identification and for timely, detailed and accurate information on their number and whereabouts;

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[1] Resolution S-27/2, annex.
[2] Resolution 44/25, annex.
[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.
[4] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.
[5] A/58/299.

3. *Stresses* the importance of providing adequate resources for programmes of identification, registration, documentation and tracing of unaccompanied minors and their reunification with their families;

4. *Calls upon* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in cooperation with other relevant United Nations bodies, to incorporate into its programmes policies that aim at preventing the separation of refugee families, conscious of the importance of family unity;

5. *Calls upon* all Governments, the Secretary-General, the Office of the High Commissioner, all United Nations organizations, as well as other international organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned to exert the maximum effort to assist and protect refugee minors and to expedite the return and reunification with their families of unaccompanied refugee minors;

6. *Urges* the Office of the High Commissioner, all United Nations organizations, as well as other international organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned to take appropriate steps to mobilize resources commensurate with the needs of unaccompanied refugee minors and for their reunification with their families;

7. *Calls upon* all States and other parties to armed conflict to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law and, in this regard, calls upon States parties to respect fully the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949[6] and related instruments, and to respect the provisions of the Conventions on the Rights of the Child,[2] which accord children affected by armed conflict special protection and treatment;

8. *Condemns* all acts of exploitation of unaccompanied refugee minors, including their use as soldiers or human shields in armed conflict and their forced recruitment into military forces, and any other acts that endanger their safety and personal security;

9. *Acknowledges* that education is among the most effective initial means of ensuring protection for unaccompanied minors, especially girls, by shielding them from exploitative activities such as child labour, military recruitment or sexual exploitation and abuse,

10. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Children's Fund, other United Nations organizations and other international organizations to mobilize adequate assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors in the areas of relief, education, recreational activities, health and psychological rehabilitation;

11. *Encourages* the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict in his efforts to raise awareness worldwide and mobilize official and public opinion for the protection of children affected by armed conflict, including refugee minors;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the implementation of the present resolution and to give special attention in his report to the girl-child refugee.

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[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

Draft resolution III
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office[1] and the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its fifty-fourth session[2] and the conclusions and decisions contained therein,

Recalling its previous annual resolutions on the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees since its establishment by the General Assembly,

Expressing its appreciation for the leadership shown by the High Commissioner, commending the staff and implementing partners of the Office of the High Commissioner for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities, and underscoring its strong condemnation of all forms of violence to which humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel are increasingly exposed,

1. *Endorses* the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its fifty-fourth session;[2]

2. *Welcomes* the important work undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its Executive Committee in the course of the year, and notes in this context the conclusions adopted on international protection,[3] on the return of persons found not to be in need of international protection,[4] on protection safeguards in interception measures,[5] and on protection from sexual abuse and exploitation,[6] which are aimed at strengthening the international protection regime, consistent with the Agenda for Protection[7] resulting from the Global Consultations on International Protection, and at assisting Governments in meeting their protection responsibilities in today's changing international environment;

3. *Reaffirms* the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees[8] and its 1967 Protocol[9] as the foundation of the international refugee protection regime, and recognizes the importance of their full and effective application by States parties and the values they embody, notes with satisfaction that one hundred and forty-five States are now parties to one instrument or to both, encourages States not parties to consider acceding to those instruments, underlines in particular the importance of full respect for the principle of non-refoulement, and recognizes that a number of

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/58/12).
[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 12A* (A/53/12/Add.1).
[3] Ibid., chap. III.B.
[4] Ibid., chap. III.C.
[5] Ibid., chap. III.D.
[6] Ibid., chap. III.E.
[7] Ibid., *Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/57/12/Add.1), annex IV.
[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.
[9] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

States not parties to the international refugee instruments have shown a generous approach to hosting refugees;

4. *Notes* that fifty-four States are now parties to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons[10] and that twenty-six States are parties to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,[11] and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his activities on behalf of stateless persons;

5. *Re-emphasizes* that the protection of refugees is primarily the responsibility of States, whose full and effective cooperation, action and political resolve are required to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to fulfil its mandated functions;

6. *Emphasizes* that international protection is a dynamic and action-oriented function that is at the core of the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner and which includes, in cooperation with States and other partners, the promotion and facilitation of, inter alia, the admission, reception and treatment of refugees and the ensuring of durable, protection-oriented solutions, bearing in mind the particular needs of vulnerable groups, and notes in this context that the delivery of international protection is a staff-intensive service that requires adequate staff with the appropriate expertise, especially at the field level;

7. *Welcomes* the High Commissioner's "Convention Plus" initiative,[12] and encourages the High Commissioner and those States that have offered to facilitate Convention Plus agreements to strengthen the international protection regime through the development of comprehensive approaches to resolving refugee situations, including improving international burden- and responsibility-sharing and realizing durable solutions;

8. *Recalls* the important role of effective partnerships and coordination in meeting the needs of refugees and other displaced persons and in finding durable solutions to their situations, and welcomes the efforts under way, in cooperation with other United Nations agencies and development actors, to promote a framework for durable solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, including the "4Rs" approach (repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction) to sustainable return;

9. *Urges* all States and relevant non-governmental and other organizations, in conjunction with the Office of the High Commissioner, in a spirit of international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to cooperate and to mobilize resources with a view to enhancing the capacity of, and reducing the heavy burden borne by, countries that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers, and calls upon the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to play its catalytic role in mobilizing assistance from the international community to address the root causes as well as the economic, environmental and social impact of large-scale refugee populations in developing countries, particularly least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition;

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[10] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 360, No. 5158.

[11] Ibid., vol. 989, No. 14458.

[12] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/58/12), para. 24.

10. *Strongly reaffirms* the fundamental importance and the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the function of the Office of the High Commissioner of providing international protection to refugees and seeking permanent solutions to refugee problems, and recalls that these solutions include voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible, local integration and resettlement in a third country, while reaffirming that voluntary repatriation, supported by necessary rehabilitation and development assistance to facilitate sustainable reintegration, remains the preferred solution;

11. *Emphasizes* the obligation of all States to accept the return of their nationals, calls upon States to facilitate the return of their nationals who have been determined not to be in need of international protection, and affirms the need for the return of persons to be undertaken in a safe and humane manner and with full respect for their human rights and dignity, irrespective of the status of the persons concerned;

12. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to improve its management systems and to ensure effective and transparent use of its resources, recognizes that adequate and timely resources are essential for the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to fulfil the mandate conferred upon it through its statute[13] and by subsequent General Assembly resolutions concerning refugees and other persons of concern, and urges Governments and other donors to respond promptly to annual and supplementary appeals issued by the Office for requirements under its programmes;

13. *Requests* the High Commissioner to report on his activities to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session.

[13] Resolution 428 (V), annex.

Draft resolution IV
Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council decisions 2003/285 and 2003/286 of 24 July 2003 concerning the enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Taking note also of the requests regarding the enlargement of the Executive Committee contained in the letter dated 23 September 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations[1] and the note verbale dated 25 April 2003 from the Permanent Mission of Zambia to the United Nations Office at Geneva,[2] both addressed to the Secretary-General,

1. *Decides* to increase the number of members of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from sixty-four to sixty-six States;

2. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to elect the additional members at its resumed organizational session for 2004.

[1] E/2003/3.
[2] E/2003/77.

Draft resolution V
Implementing actions proposed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to strengthen the capacity of his Office to carry out its mandate

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 428 (V) of 14 December 1950, the annex to which contains the statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and its resolution 57/186 of 18 December 2002, on the continuation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Appreciating the concerted efforts of the High Commissioner in undertaking consultations with the Secretary-General, the members of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and observers of its Standing Committee, through the process known as "Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees 2004", on how the Office of the High Commissioner could be better equipped to carry out its mandate in the changing context of the global situation, and noting that this is in support and in the context of the goals, objectives and commitments contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] as well as the Secretary-General's efforts to strengthen the United Nations system,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on strengthening the capacity of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to carry out its mandate,[2] as called for in resolution 57/186;

2. *Reaffirms* that international protection and the search for durable solutions for refugees and, as applicable, other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, which were examined, inter alia, in the Global Consultations on International Protection process and are reflected in the Agenda for Protection,[3] are the core of the mandate of the Office;

3. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner to strengthen its linkages with the other parts of the United Nations system in order to enhance refugee protection and to identify and implement durable solutions for refugees and other persons of concern to the Office, and appreciates its efforts to strengthen partnerships with operational and implementing partners;

4. *Welcomes* the admission of the Office to the United Nations Development Group, and invites the Development Group to include, through the resident coordinator system and in full consultation with the Government concerned, consideration of the needs of refugees and, as applicable, other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner in the common country assessment process and the subsequent formulation and implementation of their development programmes;

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[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] See A/58/410.

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/57/12/Add.1, annex IV).

5. *Notes* the importance of the support of the Office of the High Commissioner, within its mandate, to the efforts of the Emergency Relief Coordinator to promote predictable and timely United Nations strategies that, inter alia, integrate durable solutions for refugees with those for internally displaced persons;

6. *Highlights* the importance of joint efforts of the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, together with those of the Office of the High Commissioner, which contribute to durable solutions for refugees in conflict and post-conflict situations, encourages the Office to play a more active role, including through sharing information with relevant United Nations forums, and stresses that all of these activities should be undertaken in a manner consistent with the mandate of the Office;

7. *Recalls* paragraph 20 of the statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and calls for its application;

8. *Reaffirms* the continued voluntary nature of the funding of the Office of the High Commissioner in accordance with its statute, while recognizing the importance of contributions made by countries hosting refugees, especially developing countries, notes the need for more equitable international responsibility and burden-sharing and expresses concern over the recurring shortfall in the funding of the Office, requests that States, within their capacities, contribute to the full funding of the budget level approved by the Executive Committee, and encourages the Office to continue its efforts to expand its donor base and to diversify funding sources, including through the private sector;

9. *Decides* to remove the temporal limitation on the continuation of the Office of the High Commissioner contained in its resolution 57/186 and to continue the Office of the High Commissioner until the refugee problem is solved;

10. *Decides also* that the High Commissioner shall make an annual oral report to the Economic and Social Council to keep it informed of the coordination aspects of the work of the Office and shall continue the existing practice, as established in paragraph 11 of its statute, of presenting an annual written report to the General Assembly, on the understanding that every ten years, beginning at the sixty-eighth session, the report will include a strategic review of the global situation of refugees and the role of the Office, prepared in consultation with the Secretary-General and the Executive Committee.

Draft resolution VI
Follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/113 of 20 December 1993, 49/173 of 23 December 1994, 50/151 of 21 December 1995, 51/70 of 12 December 1996, 52/102 of 12 December 1997, 53/123 of 9 December 1998 and, in particular, 54/144 of 17 December 1999 and 56/134 of 19 December 2001,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,[2]

Reaffirming the importance and continuing validity of the Programme of Action, adopted in 1996 by the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States,[3] as a basic guiding tool for future activities,

Recognizing the ongoing acuteness of the migration and displacement problems in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the necessity to follow up the Conference,

Recalling the decision of the Steering Group of the Conference at its fifth meeting to continue activities in the process entitled "Follow-up to the 1996 Geneva Conference on the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Migration and Asylum Issues" for a period of five years,

Recalling also the Work Plan for the Thematic Issues, prepared jointly by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe, in accordance with the recommendations adopted by the Steering Group at its fifth meeting,

Welcoming the convening, in Moscow from 20 to 23 November 2001, of the second meeting of experts within the framework of the Work Plan for the Thematic Issues, on the topic of asylum system development and treatment of asylum-seekers, as well as international efforts aimed at improving migration regulation and border management, with due regard for refugee protection matters, and encouraging all lead agencies to continue to implement the Work Plan,

Welcoming also the subregional initiatives within the framework of transboundary cooperation and the convening, in Kolmården, Sweden, in September 2002, of the senior-level review meeting,

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[1] A/58/281.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/58/12).

[3] A/51/341 and Corr.1, appendix.

Reaffirming the view of the Conference that the primary responsibility for tackling population displacement problems lies with the affected countries themselves and that these issues are to be regarded as national priorities, while at the same time recognizing the need for enhancing international support for the national efforts of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States aimed at the effective implementation of such responsibilities within the framework of the Programme of Action adopted by the Conference,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in developing strategies and practical tools for more effective capacity-building in countries of origin and enhancing programmes to address the needs of various categories of concern to the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States,

Taking note of the positive results emanating from the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Convinced of the necessity of further strengthening practical measures and of continuing to maintain the regional approach for the achievement of effective implementation of the Programme of Action,

Noting with concern the decision to postpone the high-level review meeting concerning the implementation of the decisions of the Conference,

Recalling that the protection and promotion of human rights and the strengthening of democratic institutions are essential to prevent mass population displacement,

Mindful that adherence to the principles and the recommendations contained in the Programme of Action should be facilitated and that they can be ensured only through cooperation and coordinated activities undertaken in this respect by all interested States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other actors,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[2]

2. *Calls upon* the Governments of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, to strengthen their efforts and mutual cooperation relating to the follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States, and welcomes the positive results achieved by them in the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the Conference;[3]

3. *Invites* all States that have not yet done so to accede to and implement fully the 1951 Convention[4] and the 1967 Protocol[5] relating to the Status of Refugees;

4. *Calls upon* States and interested international organizations, in a spirit of solidarity and burden-sharing, to provide appropriate forms and levels of support for activities undertaken in follow-up to the Programme of Action;

5. *Invites* international financial and other institutions to contribute to the financing of projects and programmes within the framework of such follow-up activities;

6. *Invites* the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States to intensify bilateral, subregional and regional cooperation in maintaining the balance of commitments and interests in such activities;

7. *Calls upon* the Governments of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States to continue to strengthen their commitment to the principles underpinning the Programme of Action, in particular principles of human rights and refugee protection, and to lend high-level political support to ensure the implementation of activities undertaken in follow-up to the Programme of Action;

8. *Invites* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration to enhance their mutual relationship with other key international actors, such as the Council of Europe, the European Commission and human rights, development and financial institutions, in order better to address the wide-ranging and complex issues in activities undertaken in follow-up to the Programme of Action;

9. *Welcomes* the progress made in building civil society, in particular through the development of the non-governmental sector and the development of cooperation between non-governmental organizations and the Governments of a number of countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, and notes in this regard the relationship between adherence to the principles of the Programme of Action and success in promoting civil society, especially in the field of human rights;

10. *Encourages* the involvement of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the follow-up to the Conference, and invites them to demonstrate stronger support for the process of multinational constructive dialogue among a wide range of countries concerned;

11. *Emphasizes* the necessity of undertaking follow-up activities to the Programme of Action in relation to ensuring respect for human rights as an important factor in the management of migration flows, the consolidation of democracy, the rule of law and stability;

12. *Recognizes* the importance of taking measures, on the basis of strict adherence to all of the principles of international law, including humanitarian, human rights and refugee law, to prevent situations that lead to new flows of refugees, displaced persons and other forms of involuntary displacement;

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[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

[5] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the progress achieved in the implementation of activities undertaken in follow-up to the Programme of Action;

14. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question at its sixtieth session.